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JPRS 75305

14 March 1980

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2090

EGYPT: OPPOSITION PRESS COVERAGE

17 December 1979 - 8 January 1980

[Selected articles from AL-AHRAR, weekly publication of the Socialist Liberal Party, and AL-SHA'B, weekly publication of the Socialist Labor Party]

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S COOPERATIVE POLICY CRITICIZED

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 17 Dec 79 p 2

[Article by Engineer Mukhtar Fawzi: "Policy of Ministry of Agriculture Hamper Agricultural Cooperation; Ministry's Proposals for Cooperation Are Theoretical, Impractical and Bureaucratic; Wronged Cooperation Law and Justifications Hamper"]

[Text] Farmers in all of Egypt's villages have demanded that the continued current annihilation of the cooperative agriculture movement be reconsidered. They have also demanded that seizure by the village banks of the cooperatives' buildings, headquarters, storehouses, granaries and best employees, as they have seized the activities that are of the essence of the cooperatives' work--such as the supply of fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, fodder and other materials and the control of all the cooperative cotton marketing operations--be also reconsidered. The banks' control of these activities has caused the cooperative societies to lose their source of income from the various commissions that used to provide the revenues for their expenses and for the wages of their employees and that supplied the cooperatives with a surplus for services, projects, social aid and other activities.

What is surprising is that the banks have used the help of the employees of the cooperative societies who used to be under the control of these banks and the help of other employees of the cooperatives employed on the current account [sic], i.e. employees some of whom were the cause of complaint among the farmers and who now have control over the farmers without the presence of any board of directors to protect or defend these farmers.

Though the countryside and the farmer need the village bank so that it may advance loans to the cooperative society which in turn lends the farmers, collects the loans and repays them to the bank, these banks currently advance loans to the farmers for projects not approved by the cooperative society, in addition to collecting savings and engaging in the other banking activities. The banks have thus taken over the activities of the cooperative societies despite the instructions of his excellency the president that the cooperative movement be developed from a

service movement to a production movement and even though the president has said that science and technology will not enter agriculture except by way of cooperative production.

What role has the Ministry of Agriculture played to develop the cooperative movement in accordance with the instructions of the president of the republic which are in full harmony with the recommendations of all the international conferences concerned with increasing agricultural production and with integrated agricultural development? The Ministry of Agriculture has allowed the bank villages to wipe out the remaining activities of the agricultural cooperatives in the rural areas without formulating any strong, sound or clear policy outlining the work of each of the bank and of the agricultural cooperative in the interest of the agricultural production, the national production and of the farmer. The ministry has failed to formulate such a policy despite all the screams of the farmers and of the cooperative people.

Postponement of Election of Board of Directors:

What is more, the Ministry of Agriculture has demanded that election of the boards of directors of the agricultural cooperatives be postponed for several years without any justification and under the pretext of waiting for a new cooperative law, even though there is an extant law in accordance with whose provisions the elections must be held and even though it is impermissible to suspend a law while waiting for another.

Dropping Membership of Board of Directors:

Article 35 of the current cooperative law No 51 of 1968 states that dropping the membership of one or more members of a board of directors shall be done on a decision by the minister concerned, namely the minister of agriculture, if the board member harms the cooperative or is convicted of a dishonorable crime. The former minister of agriculture delegated this power to the governors who in turn delegated it to the directors of agriculture. The director of agriculture, who is most frequently the director of the governorate's central cooperative, has become thus empowered to deprive the farmers who elected him of the board membership and of the membership of any other cooperative in the governorate, even though this is in open violation of the law--considering that in accordance with the law, a delegated person is not at all permitted to delegate his powers to another party. The farmers trust the minister, who is fair and worthy of trust, and also the governors. But delegating this power to the directors of agriculture is, despite my appreciation for all these directors, not compatible with the law or with the actual conditions of the rural areas. There are countless complaints in this respect.

When the Ministry of Agriculture drafted its agricultural policy, the important points that it had taken into consideration in drafting the new agricultural cooperatives bill were totally remote from the real conditions of the cooperative movement. For example, this policy states that the ministry has introduced:

1. The principle of the selectivity of membership to the cooperative movement. However, this has been one of the cooperative movement's principles since 1844, i.e. since more than 135 years ago, and is nothing new introduced by the ministry. Furthermore, this principle no longer has the importance it had before, especially in the crop marketing cooperatives and the production cooperatives (into which we want to turn our cooperatives) that are found in all the previous cooperatives' laws. Now all the farmers are members of the cooperatives and all the agricultural domain is under the control of the cooperatives, a fact which enables the cooperatives to develop into production cooperatives and implement the state policy.

2. Unification of the agricultural cooperative movement in a single cooperative structure: There is no doubt that it is beneficial to have the law apply to all the agricultural cooperatives and to have a single administrative authority in control. But unification of the agricultural cooperative movement in a single cooperative structure is a matter that should be left to the farmers who are the people concerned. The agrarian reform farmers wish to maintain the village cooperative, the joint cooperative and the general cooperative covering all parts of the republic, as well as the land reclamation cooperatives. Each kind of these farmers has his different circumstances, his different cooperative ownership and his different relations with the cooperative and with the state.

3. The trend toward specialized cooperatives: There is nothing new in this regard, considering that specialization is one of the most important means of cooperation for achieving the goals. But specialization in the developing countries, including Egypt, can only start, according to the recommendations of the international conferences, at a smaller level than that of the village because specialized cooperative activity in the village is impossible due to the intricate activities and due to the lack of the leaderships that can take charge of numerous cooperative associations. Animal and crop production and the reclamation of lands in the village constitute interconnected activities controlled by a single association. Specialization then begins at higher levels (city).

4. Determining very large areas of cooperative associations to guarantee economic size:

The ministry has forgotten that the cooperative association, which is of course an economic establishment, is also a social establishment at the same time and that the joining of two villages in a single association is most often the cause of failure. Who will be the chairman and who will be the secretary? Where will the headquarters be? Where will the storehouses be, etc? The village is a single social unit. A better economic unit with a more ideal agricultural size, for example 20,000 or 30,000 feddans, can be set and can include nearly 15 cooperatives which can be called, for example, a medium association, a production association or any other name. This association can be the center of the equipment repair

and maintenance workshop and can include specialists in guidance, orchards, crop production, pest control and so forth. So will be thus able to combine the economic and social aspects of the cooperatives, especially in a country like Egypt where the social aspect is of major significance.

5. Establishment relations between village banks and cooperative associations:

This relationship is, in fact, an important must which should not at all wait for laws. We must define it as of now so that the conditions in the countryside may stabilize, especially since there is an extant agricultural cooperatives' law and there is an extant village bank law.

6. Permitting agricultural cooperatives to own and manage lands and agricultural projects:

This is nothing new to be introduced. All the existing agricultural cooperatives have such a right according to their bylaws.

Now we ask the Ministry of Agriculture: Where are the important points or aspects actually introduced into the agricultural cooperative activity? Where are the articles that give the cooperative the right and the chance to develop from a service cooperative into a production cooperative? Where are the articles that define the state's relations with the cooperatives so as to prevent state control and to enhance state watch? Where are the articles that do this by giving the right to dissolve boards of directors and to drop membership only to the courts and to the prosecution?

The green revolution and the food security, whose main goal is to increase production, depend on real, healthy and productive agricultural cooperatives, and not on service cooperatives, with a sound management, with sufficient production requirements of the best quality and provided at the scheduled times, with computers, and so forth.

We must define what we want of the cooperative association, i.e. its goals, and must then define its means, what the state wants from it and how to increase its production. The law must be then formulated to implement all these things. As for what is going on at present in terms of formulating and discussing articles and of displaying cooperative geniuses, I am afraid that the proposed law will be like the five cooperatives' laws that have preceded it and have not led to the formation of a successful agricultural cooperative movement.

8494
CSO: 4802

[illegible] ACTING CONCERNING [illegible] CONDENSER [illegible]

[illegible] to Answer [illegible]

[illegible] Two Million Pounds in Costs for Damaged Water Condenser, Minister of Local Government Evades Question by [illegible]

[Text] [illegible], the People's Assembly member from the Liberal Party, has exposed a new farce in the case of the Marsa Matruh water condenser and of the dangers to which the governorate's inhabitants have been exposed for long years.

In her comment on the answer she had asked Dr Mustafa al-Dilmaqi, the minister of housing, on the costs of operating the Marsa Matruh water condenser and the causes for its being out of order, the deputy said: The condenser was built many years ago and cost millions of pounds. Unfortunately, it worked for only a few days. It was old and difficult to operate. Only one of its four turbines functioned and produced only 300 cubic meters daily. The condenser was basically set up in a location that exposed it to sea waves that have caused it to stop operating.

Strange Position

The deputy added: What is more surprising is that when the condenser was first put into operation, the government started to build a port close to the condenser site. Consequently, the condenser has been isolated behind an island surrounded by water and is difficult to reach without maltreatment.

Th deputy pointed out that she had warned of the serious situation years ago and referred to the minutes of session No 48, dated 17 April 1978. At the time, the minister of housing answered the question by saying that the allocations necessary for the repairs had been secured. But as usual, nothing has happened and everything has been like water in the air.

[illegible] exposed another fact when she said that even the water pipeline extended from Alexandria to Marsa Matruh does not supply the area with more than [illegible] cubic meters daily whereas it was supposed to supply it with 11,000 cubic meters daily. This is because parts of the pipeline have been broken.

The deputy stressed the need to include the said necessary in the new budget so that a well-detailed scientific and practical plan may be implemented within a certain period of time to develop the desert greatly and so that the lots of the people's money and of our efforts may not be like that of the Tarso Natron condenser.

Problem to be Solved

The deputy then went on to relate another Tarso Natron deputy who revealed serious facts that were of a dubious legality from many points, failure and statements that are not more than one or paper.

The deputy said: The problem is not one. It is very old. I have at my disposal a report about the Tarso Natron condenser which was written at the request of Tarso Natron overseeing which wanted to know the conditions of the condenser. The report stresses that the condenser is absolutely unfit for operation because of technical faults in the construction and in its use.

The added: Continued operation of the condenser in its present condition is impossible for three reasons: of the lack of any degree of security on the one hand and because of the failure of its owners to abide by the basic instructions concerning the condenser's operation and maintenance on the other hand.

What is surprising is that the government officials have ignored the condenser's unsuitability in view of the gradual decline of the volume of water produced, a volume which has dropped to 15 cubic meters daily before the condenser stopped functioning completely in 1977.

Flagrant Violations

The Tarso Natron deputy went on to say: Despite this situation, violations are being committed in broad daylight. He then asked: How is it that operation of the condenser stopped in 1977 while the allowance of the workers amounting to 1,111 pounds until last July, continues to be paid? Moreover the wages of the workers amounted to 111,000 pounds between last January and July and the value of purchases for the project amounted to 65,000 pounds between 1976 and 1978.

The deputy further added: It is truly surprising that 9,000 Libyan pounds are spent to purchase requirements for the project when it is out of operation.

The deputy's voice rose higher amidst the shouts of supportive Libyan deputies while the minister of housing, whose seemed well with condemnation at what is happening.

The lady deputy then proceeds to demand the formation of a fact-finding committee to investigate the deviations, the ambiguity and the suspect activities engulfing the project.

[illegible] issues

Mr Dastalo alleged that there is power for the deputy with supervising organ and in any they be wished he could applaud the deputy and that, however, he could not do so before seeing a/o of the texts

The deputies' voices rose to confirm what was being said and to disapprove of the minister's claims

The minister gave up to say "However, we will work in the light of all that has been said. This information and these financial violations must be investigated.

He then added that he has not been to the [illegible] yet to be able to answer in detail, and that the issues concerns not only the Ministry of Housing but also other' authorities and projects, such as the port.

The minister did acknowledge that the project stopped operating with the start of the port project in 1971

The Marsa Matruh deputy [illegible] with the Assembly's secretariat the report prepared by the German drugs [illegible]'s opinion of the unsuitability of the [illegible]

The Assembly agreed to refer the issues to the Housing Committee and the situation remains unchanged so far. Neither has the minister fulfilled his promise and sent the results of his investigation to the Assembly nor has the committee started its work

What is surprising is that Engineer Mahmoud Matawalli, the minister of local government who is a part in the issue, stepped out of the session before answering a question addressed to him by [illegible]. This compelled the deputy to be content with the answer of the minister of housing or that the government may not use [illegible] pretext and on that the lives of thousands of workers living in Marsa Matruh may not be lost.

END

[illegible] 480/

GOVERNMENT BREAD-WEIGHT POLICIES HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON PRODUCTION

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Dec 79 p 5

[Article by Muhammad al-Sayyad: "Thirty Million Pounds Lost From Rural Subsidies to Feed Livestock"]

[Text] The value of bread subsidies lost annually has amounted to more than 30 million pounds, despite the fact that it has been proven that a production value of more than 15 million pounds goes as feed for livestock.

These facts are contained in the last report prepared by Engineer 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Sharqawi, chairman of the Bakeries Company, before he was retired. The report says that a subsidized bread production--whereby a loaf of bread is priced at 1 mills--valued at 15 million pounds goes for feeding livestock for reasons with which the report deals, the most important being:

The continued decline in the weight of the loaf of bread, which has recently dropped to 1.5 grams, in accordance with the officials' decisions--a decline which causes the loaf to dry up quickly and not to be in demand by the consumer.

The poor quality of the industry resulting from the lack of skilled labor, thus causing an increase in "unfit" production.

The failure of the flour production to meet the required specifications, thus affecting the color and the qualities of the loaf.

The report adds that it costs the state more than 30 mills to produce the loaf which is sold for 5 mills and that these high costs are due to the high prices of wheat internationally and the fixed [local] prices of the flour used for the production of bread. The sum of the losses incurred directly by the state for every ton of wheat amount to 130 pounds, at a rate of 13 pounds for every sack of flour weighing 100 kilograms.

The second reason, according to the report, is the state's inclination to ban the sale of coarse bran to the [livestock] breeders despite the

[illegible]

[illegible] CRISIS BLAMED ON FOOD SUPPLY AUTHORITY, MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

Cairo AL-[illegible] in Arabic 17 Dec 79 p 5

[Article: "Fate in Port and Soap Crisis in Factories, Does Ministry of Supply Know What Is Going on in the Ministry?"]

[Text] The oil shipments for the soap industry have not been delayed, contrary to the claims made by the government supply officials to the press representatives and on the television talk.

It has become evident that the Food Supply Authority which imports the fats is the last to know what part of its contracts reaches the ports. During the crushing crisis and the suspension of operations in the factories for the lack of fats, Alexandria port had 6,469 barrels of fats of the type used in the soap industry and the deliveries did not stop until the stock amounted to 24,389 barrels on 29 October 1979, the time in which the crisis escalated and compelled the Ministry of Supply to include soap in the ration cards.

By 17 November 1979, the stock amounted to 45,000 barrels.

The control agencies have revealed that the permits issued by the authority for withdrawing fats [from the ports] amounted to 3,214 tons by the same day, i.e. 17 November 1979. This is the quantity disbursed to the private factories as monthly allocations.

What is surprising is that the statements made regarding the causes of the crisis attribute these causes to the following four facts:

The delayed delivery of fats.
Electrical failures.
Drop in production.
Demand by the consumer.

There isn't a single true cause in all of these, except concealing the negligence of the Food Supply Authority which, it has become evident, does not know a thing about the deliveries made to the ports in accordance with its previous contracts.

[illegible]

Answer me, Mr Minister.

The Minister of Supply is closer to the journalists at a time when we are seeking to uphold the press as a fourth estate and when information should not be withheld from the press.

But not all that is said is realised.

6494
CSU 4803

NATIONAL PARTY DEPUTIES OPPOSE TO ABOLITION OF SUBSIDIES

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Dec 79 p 7

[Article by "National Party Deputies Warn Government Against Abolishing Subsidy; Taxes Applied to Working Class Only, Annual Loss in Wheat Storage Is 30 Million Pounds, Individual Income is Less Than One Dollar Daily"]

[Text] The National Party deputies have warned against the new economic measures that the government intends to adopt to raise the prices of some commodities that are important to the toiling classes.

The ruling party deputies have also warned of the consequences that will develop as a result of higher prices, especially since the World Bank has proven in its latest report that the individual income in Egypt at present is less than one dollar daily.

The National Party deputies have opposed the government policy that is inclined toward abolishing the subsidy.

Tawfiq Zaghlul, People's Assembly member (from the National Party), says:

It has been customary in all countries of the world to the state to shoulder some food and public service subsidies. This is not surprising. The capitalist countries do not allow the market laws to go unchecked but intervene to achieve some form of social "justice" by subsidizing some commodities. In the United States, the state shouldered 129.7 billion dollars, which rose to 240 billion in 1976, to subsidize the poor who are estimated at 25 million persons.

Before rushing toward eliminating the subsidy in Egypt, the cost economics and the prices of commodities must be studied. It is well-known that there are certain factors that affect the pricing of commodities, such as the presence of an idle capacity, the inflation of management, the presence of numerous middlemen between the producer and the consumer or the market monopoly. These factors cause higher prices. Therefore, the government interferes to subsidize the commodities whereas it behooves it to interfere in order to streamline the spending.

[illegible] Questions

Deputy Lawfi Zaghlul asked: What is the reason for subsidizing the public transport facility? Does this facility incur a loss or are the losses caused by the carriages and by the inefficient operation resulting from the burdens thrown on the shoulders of this facility, such as the constant 24-hour a day operation which provides no chance for the periodic maintenance work?

Zaghlul further added: A commodity may be sold at times at a lower price than it merits provided that the losses be made up for from the sale of another commodity at high prices. If the cost of bread causes a loss, then the price of a piece of cake has reached 20 piasters. Therefore, a part of these profits must be taken away as a "consumption tax" so that we may make up for the deficit caused by subsidizing the loaf of bread.

The case in this case is just an example. There are numerous other commodities on which a "consumption" tax can be collected. This means that we should turn into a society of production and of sacrifice. Considering that the individual income in Egypt is, according to the latest World Bank report, 82 dollars annually, i.e. less than a dollar a day, we can then determine the relative importance of production and of consumption. This doesn't mean that we should deprive the well-to-do classes but they must participate in sacrificing through a sound taxation system or through the dual price system in order to meet the costs incurred by the state for the sake of the classes with limited income.

[illegible] Object [illegible] Object

Deputy Lawfi Zaghlul opposes the World Bank's proposal for abolishing the full subsidy of commodities in return for a limited increase in wages because the full abolition of the subsidy will create chaos and instability in the prices of commodities and services--not just in the subsidized [illegible]-subsidized commodities but also in many of the manufactured commodities produced by the private and public sectors. This would mean further "hardship" to the masses which would affect the stability of the conditions. Such stability is required for production and for development. However, this doesn't mean that I do not agree with them on the principle of abolition but that I believe that the abolition should come about gradually and over a time span that may extend to several years. We will thus get rid of the subsidy gradually while maintaining control over the prices at the same time. The hardship of the harmed classes will also be possible to tackle without adding burdens to the people with limited income.

Subsidy Has Become Necessity

'Abd-al-Qadir al-Bahrawi, member of the People's Assembly (from the National Party), says: Advocacy of the idea of abolishing the subsidy is based on conventional concepts prevailing in the 19th century and calling for non-intervention in the process of letting the supply and demand determine the prices with absolute freedom.

The subsidy for the essential commodities must not be abolished because the subsidy is an essential issue that affects the various classes of the people, beginning with the smallest employee and ending with the minister. This issue must be approached with utmost caution for fear of the consequences that may result from the abolition which will, of course, cause a rapid rise in prices.

The National Party deputy added that he is opposed to the idea of abolishing the subsidy for the essential commodities needed by the classes with a limited income because it is practically impossible to raise the wages of the broad base of workers in the agricultural and private sectors on the one hand and because raising the minimum wage through the cost of living allowance will not make up for the rise in prices on the other hand, especially since some statements have indicated that the government does not intend to raise the implicit and concealed subsidy, i.e. the services that the government offers at below-the-cost prices, such as electricity, transportation and water.

Public Pretexts

'Abd-al-Qadir al-Bahrawi stresses that the government intends to raise the prices of the public sector products that are sold at cost price so as to enable the public sector to make profits.

Therefore, raising the minimum wage will not be enough to shoulder the new burdens. The pretext cited for abolishing the subsidy, namely the pretext of preventing the well-to-do and the rich from getting the subsidized goods, will lead us to denying these goods to the majority of the people.

What Is Solution?

Through a fair taxation policy it will be possible to recover the subsidy that the well-to-do get. Such a policy will not only secure revenues but will also realize social justice in the distribution of income.

He added that no economic development will succeed unless it is coupled with a fair distribution of income.

He added that no economic development will succeed unless it is coupled with a fair distribution of income and wealth among the citizens.

Beware Rising Prices

Deputy Ibrahim al-'Iryan (from the National Party) warned against abolition of the subsidy because such abolition will do the national economy no service and will cause, moreover, far-reaching social damage.

The social cost is no less important than the economic cost and commitment to supplying goods at a reasonable price is necessary, regardless of whether the goods are supplied by way of subsidies, by increased wages or by increasing the commodity supply at a higher rate than the increase in demand.

A quick glance at the situation shows surprising facts as to what the well-to-do and the wealthy classes get out of this subsidy. Moreover, many of the goods subsidized by the state most often reach the people who do not need them.

Deputy Ibrahim al-'Ajmi added: The subsidy issue is not an issue on which an abolition decision can be taken easily. It is an issue that affects the prices and is affected by them and an issue that is entwined with many other factors, such as world prices and the volume of currency flow.

6404
CSO: 4802

OPPOSITION LEADER ACCUSES MAJORITY LEADERS OF SHACKLING DEMOCRATIC LIFE

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Dec 79 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Ten People's Assembly Members Act in Solidarity With Abu-Nafirah, Ibrahim Shukr: Intruding Elements Can Dissolve Party Through Prior Arrangement. I Will Meet With President al-Sadat to Acquaint Him with Real Situation, National Party Leaders Impose Shackles on Establishment of Democratic Life"]

[Text] AL-AHRAM has learned that 10 members of the Socialist Labor Party who are also members of the People's Assembly will submit their resignation from the Labor Party in solidarity with Mahmud Abu-Nafirah, the party's deputy chairman, whose resignation was accepted last week.

AL-AHRAM has also learned that six of these resignees are members of the People's Assembly from al-Buhayrah Governorate from which Mahmud Abu-Nafirah comes.

The 10 resignees include Nuhibb Ismayn, a former minister of tourism and aviation and the chairman of the Assembly's Housing Committee.

The resignees are expected to join the National Party which is already engaged in endeavors to attract them.

It is well-known that the Labor Party had included 36 members in its Parliamentary Committee and that the number dropped to 29 when the National Party was able to attract five of those members at the outset of the current parliamentary session.

Ibrahim Shukr has made an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM announcing that he will meet with President Anwar al-Sadat to acquaint him with the real situation and with the obstacle that the National Party leaders are imposing on the establishment of a democratic life.

Shukr added that the continued presence of the party is tied to conditions that make the party's dissolution accessible to whoever wants to harm the party in prior arrangement with an element intruding on the party'

Ibrahim Shukri, the chairman of the Socialist Labor Party and the opposition leader, has made an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM in which he has said that he will meet with President Anwar al-Sadat to acquaint him with the real situation, and with the obstacles that the National Party leaders are imposing on the establishment of a democratic life in Egypt.

Following is the text of the statement [obtained]:

Ibrahim Shukri began by saying: I do not doubt for a moment the great zeal of President al-Sadat who is eager for the continued success of the democratic experiment on the basis of the rule of law in Egypt. President al-Sadat believes fully in democracy and in the establishment of partisan life in Egypt. But the National Party leaders do not believe in this and they are trying to impose obstacles on the establishment of democratic life and to transform the parties into a single party, namely the Democratic National Party.

Ibrahim Shukri added that he will meet with President al-Sadat to acquaint him with the real situation.

He further added: The step which starts with the acknowledgement that the rule in political organization is the creation of many parties and not just one party and the tendency to apply this rule even before the amendment of the constitution is an important step in engaging in a healthy parliamentary life.

Providing Guarantees

But this is conditional upon providing many guarantees before we can actually attain the desired goal. The start came with the issuance of the parties law in its initial form. We know that it was a law formulated on the basis of what was then in existence. Certain parties were licensed and were declared to the public--these were the parties that developed from the platforms. Then conditions were imposed for the formation of new parties and it became obvious from practice that it was difficult to form new parties. Then came the occasion of the latest elections and the law was amended to eliminate the condition that a party be represented by a certain number of People's Assembly members before it could be established.

Intruding Elements

The opposition leader added: However, the continued presence of a party is tied to conditions that make dissolving the party accessible to whoever wants to have the party on a prior arrangement with an element introducing on the party. This is why I ask President al-Sadat who is eager for the continued success of the democratic experiment in Egypt to amend the parties law in a fundamental manner so that it may actually encourage the formation of new parties that seek to serve the homeland's interest first and foremost

Regarding the practices inside the People's Assembly, Ibrahim Nasr said: The practices are divided between the 'platform' and the seats, between the majority and the minority, between the government and the opposition. There is no doubt that each has its duties and its rights and we will not attain the aims [illegible] unless we are as ready to give the others their rights as we are ready to cling to our rights. If we want healthy practices inside the People's Assembly, the majority party must abide by the necessary rules and regulations and its majority should not tempt it to cause loss of the right of the others to express their opinion or to be given the full opportunity to debate. This is the only way to enrich a healthy democratic life.

Sadat
[illegible] Abu.

LIBERAL PARTY OFFICIAL WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 1

[Article: "'Abd-al-Shafi Withdraws Resignation"]

[Text] Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi, the Liberal Party representative [unit], has withdrawn his resignation from the party.

The party's General Secretariat has approved his return to resume his political activities.

'Abd-al-Shafi will issue a statement outlining his previous position toward the party and the reasons of his resignation.

8494
CSO: 4802

CONSOLIDATION OF LAND OWNERSHIP VIEWED AS MEANS FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 7

[Article by Mahmud Fawzi: "Fragmentation of Land Holdings and Agricultural Revolution. Small Size of Individual Farms is Biggest Obstacle in Face of Increased Agricultural Production. Agrarian Reform Law Called for Putting End to Land Fragmentation But Nobody Implemented It. Will We Begin Dealing with Holding Fragmentation. Collective Agriculture, Utilization is Temporary Solution"]

[Text] In this important stage of our country's history, namely the stage of building under the canopy of peace, each of us should offer all that is in his power and we must exert utmost efforts to increase agricultural production which is the backbone of our economic wealth and which will continue to be so for centuries. The constant, unlimited and unchecked population growth and the rising consumption under the changing international factors, be they prices or otherwise, must make us serious in seeking to acquire all possible production from our good earth. God has favored us with good land, abundant water and the right climate and we must exert utmost efforts, using science, technology and expertise.

Numerous studies have indicated that the fragmentation and scattering of individual [land] holdings and the small size of these holdings, as well as the fact that they are scattered--regardless of whether they are holdings by ownership or by lease--constitute an enormous stumbling block in the face of increased production. The recommendations of international conferences are unanimous in that the small size and the fragmentation of individual holdings constitute the biggest obstacle in the face of increased agricultural production and that the most important thing that any country which wants to increase its production must do is to deal with this issue according to its own conditions and security and through studies, research and scientific experiments.

Fragmentation of Holdings in Egypt

In Egypt the actual fragmentation of holdings is much more extensive than the records show. For example, when I engaged in a project for the collectivization of agricultural utilization, I studied the village of Samaj, near Tanta, and found out that

1. There were 320 land owners, each of whom owned less than one quarter feddan.

2. There were 969 owners, each of whom owned less than one half a feddan of land.

3. There were 678 owners, each of whom owned less than one feddan.

Even though the total number of owners in the village, counting those who own less than one quarter feddan with those who own less than one half feddan, is 1,385 owners, I found that the average number of plots for the entire village amount to 4 plots located in various basins, i.e. more than 20 percent of the landowners own less than one quarter feddan [sic]. There are 97 owners, each with an ownership of less than three qirats and 19 owners, each with an ownership of less than one qirat, i.e. share owners. These statistics applied in 1959. Now later 27 years the size of ownerships and holdings has diminished through inheritance.

Idle Agrarian Reform Law

In the agrarian reform law, the legislator was aware of the dangers of small agricultural ownerships and so he promulgated article No. 23 of the agrarian reform law to put an end to the fragmentation of these ownerships. The article states:

Article 23. Should anything happen leading to the fragmentation of agricultural land ownership to less than five feddans, regardless of whether such fragmentation is the result of sale, barter, inheritance, will, grant or any other means of land acquisition, the individuals concerned shall agree on the individual who will own the land. Should this turn out to be impossible, the matter shall then be referred to the lowest court under whose jurisdiction the most valuable part of the property falls at the request of one of the individuals concerned or the request of the public prosecution so that the court may decide to whom the land shall belong. If no individual capable of meeting the commitments of the remaining shares is found, the court shall decide to sell the land by auction.

This article has been idle and no measures have been taken to implement it. Consequently, the size of the agricultural land ownerships has diminished even further.

Nawaj Project

When we implemented the Nawaj project which was under the supervision of Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, the goal was to find a quick, but not successful [sic], solution for the problem of ownership fragmentation. The project, seeking to make the size of the area cultivated with cotton by each society no less than 20 feddans so as to reduce the damage caused by cultivating various crops in close proximity to one another--such as the proximity of

[illegible] project succeeded after redoubling efforts and even though we [illegible] believed it could succeed, except for Engineer Ismail Fahmi who gave us [illegible] encouragement. Similar projects were then implemented in all the villages and this project came to constitute the basis of the [illegible] cycle.

Uniting Agricultural Ownership

Many countries have faced this problem and have come up with the right solution for it according to their circumstances and resources. It has been possible to unite ownerships in many parts of the Delta and in Fayoum, Behaireh and numerous other countries through various methods. This unification has required new village planning, as well as new planning for irrigation, drainage, railroads and other various aspects. These projects have been successful. If agricultural land holdings are below this limit (as I have given), they will not be productive for either the state or the owner himself.

[illegible] Project

As I have already said, the [illegible] agricultural collectivization project was a temporary and partial project. But when it succeeded, the project was adopted as a model throughout the republic. We started with Kom el-Ghab, a village in al-Bajur District of Al-Mansurah Governorate, which is a prime example of the advantages of new agricultural land ownerships and holdings. We held several meetings with the brother farmers to discuss the project for uniting the agricultural ownerships. The idea was to give the farmer one piece of land for all the scattered pieces that he owns, so that it may be easier for him to fertilize and cultivate that land and to increase its production, instead of having scattered holdings here and there. The procedural idea is that the farmer refuses this idea and that every part of land he owns is dear to him and that he does not agree to relinquish it. It was proven at the time that the Egyptian farmer is extremely intelligent and alert. I remember that one of the brother farmers in Kom el-Ghab' told me, 'I own 6.5 scattered feddans for which I will take one piece of land with an area of four feddans so that I may be able to have peace of mind and may [illegible] part of it. After numerous meetings, all the farmers approved the idea. The most important discussions centered on the following points:

1. The farmer will receive a single piece of land equal in value, and not in acreage, to the area he owns before collectivization.

2. The land is evaluated carefully and the general assembly of an agricultural cooperative approves the evaluation before any farmer knows where his land is located.

3. Land collectivization is done on the basis of adding smaller pieces to the biggest piece of land wherever possible.

a. The single piece of land given to the farmer should be around his garden or his house if they are outside the village.

b. Irrigation and drainage canals should be repaired to provide the best service.

Mit Rahinah

A similar project was then discussed with the brother farmers in Mit Rahinah. The most enthusiastic among them was Shaykh Murad 'Ubayd whose land holdings were more scattered than others. The project was approved by the farmers unanimously.

I presented this plan in its entirety to the minister of agriculture at the time. He said then that the issue required a republican decree. After more than 10 years, the project is still awaiting the republican decree.

Productive Cooperative Association

The other solution to deal with the small size and the scattering of the agricultural land holdings concerned lies in developing the agricultural cooperative into a production cooperative. This is a temporary solution before consolidating ownerships. In this case, the village agricultural cooperative will be responsible for agricultural production within the village jurisdiction, for increasing this production and for drawing up the cultivation, irrigation, fertilization and pest control plan within the framework of the Ministry of Agriculture's plan. The cooperative's general assembly approves this plan. The cooperative--through its board of directors, the committees in charge of the various basins in the village, the cooperative director and the agricultural guides--actually implements this plan in every holding. If the brother farmers carry out what they are supposed to do in the individual holdings, then that is fine. If not and if the farmer neglects or delays his work, then the cooperative does what should be done at the expense of the farmer and decide to impose a fine on him.

This experiment has been carried out in accordance with the instructions of the president of the republic who has said that science and technology can enter agriculture only through the production agricultural cooperatives.

We must face all our problems courageously and must work to find fundamental solutions for them, the way Dr Mustafa Khalil, the prime minister, is doing. As for half solutions and for fear of the difficulty of the solutions, these are matters that should be cast aside. It is the duty of man to try, though not necessarily to achieve success.

8494
CSO: 4802

SHUBRA AL-KHAYMAH SERVICES SAID DECLINING FOR LACK OF FUNDS

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 3

[Article: "Shubra al-Khaymah Officials Admit Problems of Biggest Industrial City in Egypt Find No Solution"]

[Text] Ahmad Rami al-Jayyar, chairman of Shubra al-Khaymah's Local Council and the general director of al-Nil Company for Oils and Soap, has said: We have no money to spend on the service projects in Shubra al-Khaymah, except for the budget that we get as part of the general state budget and which is not enough to enable us to eliminate the area's problems. The main source on which we have relied to deal with these problems has been the area's services fund budget. This fund has no money now and this has caused the debts owed to the public and private sector contractors to accumulate and, consequently, these contractors have stopped implementing the area's projects. For example, work in the Nubar housing project stopped almost 3 years ago and the problems and obstacles facing this plan have compelled us to sell this center to the Ministry of Housing for 85,000 pounds. The equipment for this center was imported from abroad and has remained in storage in al-Haram, al-Jizah Governorate. The purpose of the equipment was to raise the production efficiency and the vocational skill of the workers. The center is currently used as a center for training building and construction workers and will continue to be used for this purpose until we pay the debts owed by the Service Council.

Muhammad 'Abd-al'Hajiz 'Abd-al-Hamid, the assistant secretary of the Democratic National Party in Shubra al-Khaymah and the rapporteur of the party's Domestic Supply and Trade Committee in al-Qalyubiyah Governorate, has said: The area's Services Council is unable to perform its role as a result of the continued decisions and instructions concerning these councils. The budgets of these councils used to get 10 percent of the earnings of the workers for the services. The Ministry of Finance used to collect this percentage and send it to the councils as a lump sum to finance their housing projects. But as of last year's budget, these restrictions were dropped and the industrial companies and establishments have been refusing to pay this percentage on the pretext that they are carrying out service projects on their own and without any need for the Services Council.

Where Are Youth Centers

Anwar 'Abd-al-Ghani al-Bahraji, who holds a B.A. in economics and political science and is one of the area's youth leaders, has said that the area's youth live in deprivation due to the lack of youth centers in the area, considering that there are only two such centers and that they are below standard because they receive meager aid that is not enough to meet the youth requirements and wishes.

In an interview with Fatimah 'Abd-al-wahhab Hasan, secretary of the women's organization in Shubra al-Khaymah, Fatimah said: The Shubra al-Khaymah Services Council has adopted a plan to expand the establishment of nurseries, especially for the women workers of the public and private sectors, to set up women's training centers and an office for family guidance and counselling to spread awareness among the workers, to enhance the sense of social responsibility and to develop the local community. But all this has been stopped completely due to the negligence and inability of the Service Council as a result of the unavailability of money to this council.

Coffers Are Empty

Fatimah 'Ali Hamdan, member of the People's Council of al-Qalyubiyah Governorate and a worker in Woolen Company in Shubra al-Khaymah, has said that agricultural land in Shubra al-Khaymah has disappeared completely, that buildings have been constructed on this land due to the rising population density and that there has been no expansion in the services to counter this expansion.

Natalia 'Abdallah Fudah, Sayyid Yasin al-Ahmar, Muhammad Husayn al-Hali, 'Atif Muhammad Khayr: Sha'rawi, Sayyid Salman Ja'far, Yusuf Sayyid Hasan, Abu-al-Nasarin Mustafa Isma'il and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im Qasabi, all of whom work in the above, assert that they are suffering from the sharp housing crisis in the area and from the renting of rooms in shifts. This is in addition to the hardships of lack of drinking water, lighting and sewers. They wonder what has happened to the promises and statements of the governorate officials that Shubra al-Khaymah will turn into another Llanabiru.

Planning Violation

Jamil Muhammad Salih Dukkar, the security supervisor at al-Nil Public Company for Desert Roads, and Muhammad Basyuni Salim, head of the company's traffic sections in Shubra al-Khaymah, say that construction is carried out without any regard for the street and city planning and that this is done before the eyes and ears of all the executive agencies of Shubra al-Khaymah and of the governorate which are supposed to be the watchdog concerned with the implementation of the laws. These agencies watch as if nothing concerns them. This situation has caused the plans to be mere ink on paper. The best proof of this fact are the zoning violations, the construction violations, the road works and the workshops, factories and

sewage present on public streets. As a result of this situation, other persons and fire engines have often been unable to enter such areas. When a fire broke out in Barty' Abu-al-Nuq in Giza Square--a fire which caused the death of a citizen--the fire engines were not able to reach the area because they were obstructed by sewer water and by the unpaved roads. The same happened when a fire broke out in the storehouses of the United Arab Company during the last 'Id al-Fitr and caused a loss of 1 million pounds to the state.

Says
Abu Aqil.

PRIVATE LESSONS CONSIDERED [illegible] REALITY [illegible]

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 3

[Article: "Strangest Equation: Free Education and Private Lessons for Dollars"]

[Text] Even though providing free education is one of the directions taken by the state, the reality declares otherwise. The reality declares that education in Egypt has its cost and very high cost, which is shouldered by the families of students from the stage of acceptance [presumably elementary school] and until college. There is no difference in this situation between one student and another, except for abnormal cases that do not reflect the reality.

What is surprising is that the state which shoulders both the direct and indirect expenses of education reaps no benefit from this large income which the parents of students spend to educate their children.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Majid, the father of three students, one of whom is a university student, says that free education is a misnomer. It is unreasonable for a father with a limited income and who works as an employee in the public sector to spend more than one-half his monthly income on--essential--private lessons. But if he doesn't, then farewell to the future of his children.

And University

In universities, and in schools of medicine in particular, the fees for private lessons have begun to turn toward the dollar and the pound sterling, considering that the number of students coming from abroad and of the children of the Palestinian resistance leaders, has been increasing. The cost of a single lesson in anatomy ranges from 20 to 50 dollars. Considering that a session usually includes between 10 and 15 students, the income of the instructor reaches 300 to 750 dollars from single session, not exceeding 90 minutes usually. The income of the instructor depends on the conditions of the subject matter and the qualifications of the instructor and on whether he is an instructor, an assistant professor, a full professor or a chair professor.

Private lessons have become the real locus of learning, whereas auditoriums have turned into a mere appearance that leads nowhere.

This phenomenon is not confined to the higher diplomas but stretches way down to the first year of acceptance (at elementary schools). The teachers explain no scientific principles to the students, especially since the change in the general curriculum--a change which has destroyed the basic learning in the early stages, i.e. teaching of the three R's, and which has led to incomprehensible new rules based on pictures and drawings and incompatible with the method of education.

Dr Samir 'Azzam, an assistant professor at al-Azhar University, says that the increasing numbers of students accepted in the universities and the current system which is based fundamentally on the total number of grades earned by a student in government high school examinations, regardless of the student's education inclinations, are the cause of the small benefit acquired from the lectures and lessons given inside the universities. This is in addition to the small number of professors and the meager wages which open the door for private lessons that enable the professors to raise their incomes and face the requirements of life at the expense of devoting their time to research and to enhancing their own knowledge so as to give the students idea. benefits.

University Bylaws

Even though the university bylaws ban any professor or instructor from giving private lessons to the students and call for dismissing the instructor or professor who gives such lessons from the university faculty, this provision of the bylaws is left idle and has not been implemented since the bylaws were issued. Not a single case of the sort has been presented to the University Council even though such cases are widespread inside the universities and have turned into an unhealthy and serious phenomenon that needs to be dealt with.

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CAIRO TRANSPORT AUTHORITY'S BOOKKEEPING DESCRIBED AS SUSPICIOUS

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 3

[Article by Muhammad Murayd: "Central Accounting Agency Exposes Secret of Public Transport Authority's Losses, Authority Sold (Mospiro) Land for 1.5 Million Pounds Less Than Its Value"]

[Text] A report prepared by the Central Accounting Agency has dealt with the violations committed by the Cairo Public Transport Authority, including the authority's reliance on foreign financing sources more than its reliance on intrinsic financing sources. Such reliance rose to reach 61 percent in 1975, 62.8 percent in 1976 and 65.2 in 1977. Translated into pounds, the value of the foreign financing amounted to 94.8 million pounds by the end of 1977, i.e. to 50 percent of the monies used by the authority.

This has caused the deficit in the budget to rise to 46.7 million pounds. Meanwhile, the value of the stock (al-makhzun) rose to 24.3 million pounds posing a burden to the authority.

The report also says that the authority did not take stock of the immovable property on the date of the budget and that no measures were taken to acquire property certificates showing the value of this property even though the agency demands such certificates annually. Moreover, no bank certificates were presented to show the value of the documented credits.

The flagrant violations appear clearly in including the value of the (Mospiro) piece of land, which has an area of 10,000 square meters, with the authority's immovable property even though the land and the buildings constructed on it were sold to the Egyptian International Bank for Foreign Trade for the sum of 772,000 pounds in accordance with contract No 56) of 1975. The bank later sold the land to the International Company for Hotels and Tourism for a profit of 4.2 million pounds. This casts doubts on the assessment of the land value when the authority sold it and calls for conducting an investigation with the officials who concluded the sale deal. Moreover, the authority did not record the fact of the sale and its results in its account books.

Documents

At the same time, the agency has discovered from examining the authority's documents that the authority has been lax in collecting its dues from others, thus causing these dues to be accumulated. Examples of this laxity are the following:

A total of 50,000 pounds owed to the authority as a result of loans given to the workers since 1968.

A total of 63,000 pounds owed by deceased workers or workers who have left the authority.

A total of 42,000 pounds recorded against some departments of the armed forces since 1984.

A total of 10,000 pounds owed by the Egyptian Company for Tourist Construction and Development in al-Ghardaqah and al-Qusayr.

A total of 20,000 pounds recorded against the Egyptian Maritime Company in Alexandria.

A total of 63,000 pounds in initial and final insurance for parties with whom deals have been terminated.

Uncollected Checks

The value of checks not collected by the end of 1971 amounted to 64,000 pounds, including 6,000 pounds in checks dating back to preceding years. These checks have not been balanced in the books yet.

Moreover, there are other sums that have not been balanced yet, including a sum of 3.6 million pounds recorded as fees in the Customs Authority.

A sum of 180,000 pounds recorded against Cairo Governorate and a number of public sector companies and dating back to 1969.

The examination has also shown that there are many accounting mistakes in the balancing of the accounts that raise suspicions. These mistakes have made the balances entered in the authority's books to be inaccurate. The examination has also indicated that there has been poor control over the disbursement of wages, overtime wages, allowances and rewards and that these additional payments are more than 50 percent the basic wages, thus violating organizational regulation No 32 of 1975. At the same time, the auditing has shown that the authority disbursed cost of living allowances to employees with monthly salaries of more than 50 pounds, thus violating circular No 1 of 1976, issued by the Ministry of Finance. This is in addition to the numerous changes and omissions made in the daily work notices, truancy notices and leave notices, in addition to changing the

days of absence from work and of emergency leave into actual working days and in addition to the presence of obvious mistakes in calculating the income allowance.

Idle Capacities

The report also deals with the presence of idle equipment capacities in the authority represented in.

The presence of idle equipment valued at 179,000 pounds and idle means of transportation amounting to 3.4 million pounds. This is in addition to what has been revealed by examination of the commodity structure account. In the projects whose implementation started years ago and on which more than 3.9 million pounds have been spent whereas no initial or final delivery reports are found in the records for these projects. Moreover, the value of spareparts for the Icarus vehicles [buses] has amounted to 1.4 million pounds whereas number of the operation Icarus buses does not exceed 30 buses.

At the same time, the authority has kept its renewed buses, numbering 160, in storage in al-Samawah, Dar al-Khalil and Hulwan even though more than a year has passed since the buses were renewed [presumably overhauled]. Moreover, it has also become evident that a large number of buses whose bodies were renewed were sitting in the authority's warehouses from 1973 till June 1978. These buses no longer meet the specifications. Moreover, they are not operable because many of their parts have been taken away. From auditing the work of the warehouses, the Central Accounting Agency has discovered the presence of rejects that have accumulated in the main delivery warehouses for years, even though the price of these commodities was paid in advance. This is in addition to mixing the local brands with the imported brands, the presence of one brand in more than one place and the unavailability of a warehouse for returned items. It has also been shown that the warehouses lack mechanical resources, such as scales and measurements, and this leads to inaccurate dispensation. This is in addition to the accumulation and poor storage of certain brands and this is something that makes it impossible to take the inventory. The auditing has also shown that persons dismissed from the authority still have property in their trust and that no measures have been taken to recover this property. Examples of this situation are the presence of a deficit of 14,000 pounds in the firefighting equipment of the fire engines of al-Shuyib branch and a trust of 746 pounds in the possession of the storehouse keeper of al-Jizah branch who went abroad without handing over his trust. Moreover, there are [presumably in the warehouses] flammable materials, such as sulfuric acid, thinner and lumber, which expose the public property to danger.

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CSO: 4802

NATIONAL PARTY DEPUTIES OPPOSE INCREASE IN ESSENTIAL COMMODITY PRICES

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 4

[Article: "Government Refuses to Raise Whisky and Beer Prices and Raises Price of Edible Oil in Stores"]

[Text] The members of the Democratic National Party's Parliamentary Committee were surprised during the committee's meeting last week with a secret price list prepared by the government and entailing frightful increases in the prices of some commodities and raising the price of a kilogram of loose [al-hurr] sugar to 60 piasters, that of a cylinder of butane gas to 1.5 pounds, in addition to fearful increases in the prices of cloth material and to raising the price of benzine and fuel oil by (4) piasters.

As soon as the government's intention became clear, the committee members unanimously rejected these increases after 8 hours of heated discussions and demanded that alternatives be found immediately and without further argument. The meeting was then adjourned for 2 hours so that the government members may discuss how to absorb the members' anger.

When the meeting was resumed, Dr Mustafa Khalil announced the government's response to the members' observations and opinions.

It was then decided to maintain the price of the butane gas cylinder as it is, namely 65 piasters per cylinder, to increase the price of kerosene by 5 mils per liter, to increase the price of fuel oil and benzine by 2 piasters, the price of sugar by 5 piasters and the price of edible oil by 5 piasters.

Even though the government has not announced the increase in the price of oil, this price has, as usual, actually risen in the stores.

The government has strongly rejected the proposals of the deputies to raise whisky and beer prices by 100 to 150 percent even though they are not essential commodities for the masses. The government's argument was that raising whisky and beer prices will affect the development of tourism.

Many of the party members left the meeting angry at the government's way of dealing with the price issues, but to no avail.

8494
CSO: 4802

NATIONAL PARTY DEPUTIES PRESSURED TO APPROVE EXEMPTION BILL

Cairo Al-[illegible] in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 4

[Articles: "In Third Time, Members of Ruling Party Approved with Nod From Certain Minister"]

[Text] The National Party members in the People's Assembly split into two factions during the discussion on a bill to exempt from taxes one entertainment party held by each charitable society annually.

One faction demanded that the taxes be collected in full whereas the other faction demanded that all such parties be exempted from taxes because they produce a big income that enables the charitable societies to carry out their message.

Tawfiq Zaghlul voiced his objection, saying: Is the government so rich? The government contradicts itself. How can it declare that there is a deficit of 1.2 billion pounds in the budget and then proceed to exempt entertainment parties managed by contractors who earn thousands of pounds? We have already taken decisions refusing to exempt luxuries.

The deputy added: How can we exempt dancing parties, all of which are held under the mask of the charitable societies? I reject the bill for the sake of Egypt and of its people.

Deputy Rif'at Batal supported is colleague and demanded that the bill be turned down. He said: How can we face the masses with these unnecessary exemptions? There have been price increases that the people have accepted unwillingly because they affect their daily bread. How can such exemptions be reconciled with the declaration of a deficit in the budget? The contractors who manage these parties are a bunch of crooks and liars. Deputy Batal then demanded that full taxes be collected and that controls be imposed on the contractors of such parties.

Muhammad 'Atiyah, a Helwan deputy, joined his two colleagues, saying: In a party and the singing and dancing that go with it a charitable act that

deserves exemption' We are like a man who gives illicit money as charity If the societies want to do good, then they have the fund-raising campaigns and the Egyptian people are the best in performing their duty

Rawa 'Abd. Mukhtar Ma'mal and 'Abd-al'A. al-Jarih. declared their support for the bill on the grounds that the parties generate an income for the societies that enables them to carry out their message and save the state enormous sums in the budget. They said that those who work in the charitable societies are volunteers who collect no wages and that we must improve their conditions.

Suddenly, Dr Isml Abu-Talib ended the discussion and proposed that a vote be taken. The vote was taken three times through standing and raising hands Even though the vote indicated rejection of the bill the first time, the National Party deputies, on a nod from a certain minister, were compelled to vote in support of the bill under pressure

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MEANS TO IMPROVE BREAD QUALITY, REDUCE SUBSIDIES SUGGESTED

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 5

[Article by Muhammad al-Minyawi: "Veto Black Loaf in Age of Prosperity, 168 Million Pounds to Subsidize Bread Unfit for Consumption, Government Gives Wealth to Other Fat Cats"]

[Text] For the first time, the government acknowledges the reality, decides that the 10-mil loaf of bread has become an undeniable and unpreventable fact and agrees to regulate its production without exposing the producer to the terror of the supply control, to being brought before the urgent courts of misdemeanor and to being arrested and thrown into station jails until he is prosecuted.

However, the inclination of the Ministry of Supply is to produce two kinds of flour--one local [baladi] with a 93.3 percent extraction [istikhraj], i.e. a black loaf of bread in the age of prosperity, for the production of the local bread costing 5 mils a loaf. This kind will constitute 25 percent of the total production of bread, i.e. 168 million pounds will go for eating the black loaf of bread. The other kind of flour is of an 82 percent extraction and will be used to produce the special local bread: Syrian bread and French bread. This inclination is wrong for several reasons:

First, we cannot accept in the age of peace the production of a black loaf of bread which the people did not eat under the darkest and most difficult conditions.

Second, the production of such bread, if it is possible to produce, will proceed entirely toward a path other than the path set for it and it will end up as fodder for livestock and poultry. It will be as if we are throwing the bread subsidy into the sea.

The ministry's inclination toward such a decision means that the special loaf of bread, costing 10 mils, will constitute the actual production and will be the ideal human food and will, consequently, mean cancellation of the ordinary loaf of bread which will be turned down by the people. The government will not, as a result, have to face the responsibility of abolishing production of the ordinary loaf which has continued to be, with

the price that does not reflect the reality and with the pressure that has been difficult, the many of all the governments. We have been advocating for a long time in the pages of Al-Ahram the production of the special loaf (Baladi loaf) of bread because it greatly reduces the burdens of the workers who have begun to disappear as [illegible] because the production of this bread will save enormously the specifications required in a loaf of bread. The economy of the Egyptian family's diet, and because the small loaf--the 5-piastre loaf--can no longer sustain anyone. Even a small child needs no less than two loaves in a single meal.

It would have behooved the Ministry of Supply to face the reality and to make it known to the people and we are confident that the Egyptian people would have appreciated and supported the Ministry's initiation to produce a good and clean loaf of bread for 10 mills. The people would have accepted this loaf of bread instead of seeing the current big loaf of bread which is sold for 15, 20 or 25 mills not which is produced by operators that do not bear the requirements of sanitation, control or healthy production.

We support the production of a uniform loaf flour with 82 percent extraction to be used in the production of all kinds of bread be it local, Syrian or French. We also support saving [preceding word illegible] and unifying the price of this flour so as to close the gap that will arise from the production of two kinds of flour--the 91.5 percent kind and the 82 percent kind--and from the difference in their prices. Such difference will open the door for those who speculate with the people's sustenance to tamper with the quantities of flour of 91.5 percent extraction and to re-sift it and produce it with the specifications of the 82 percent flour, thus reaping fortunes through the difference in the price of the flour and the difference of the bread produced by re-sifting the 91.5 percent flour to turn out the 82 percent flour, especially when we know that the price of bread, which is officially set at 10 pounds by the private sector, has reached 70 pounds in the market. This mean that there is a difference of 60 pounds in every ton of bread produced this way. This is the same difference between the price of a ton of flour and that of a ton of bread.

This is in addition to the illicit profit made as a result of the difference in the price of the 91.5 percent flour which will be 3 pounds for a 100-kilogram sack and the 82 percent flour which will be 5 pounds for the same weight.

Therefore, we present these alternatives to the officials concerned:

First, produce local flour of 82 percent extraction and at a price of 3 pounds per 100-kilogram sack. This difference [between 3 pounds for 82 percent and 5 pounds for 82 percent] will save a subsidy of 91.. million pounds, according to the statements made by the minister of supply before the People's Assembly.

[illegible] raise the price of bread to [illegible] at least 70 pounds per ton, which is the current market price, and allow the free trading of this commodity. This will provide the state with 13 billion pounds as a result of the difference in prices.

Then, move up the price of the flour used for the backyard pastry to [illegible] 60 pastors per kilogram, considering that this type of flour is used for making the backyard, harvest and other kinds of pastries. Such an estimation will yield an additional revenue of 5 billion pounds to be added to the subsidy savings.

We can thus realize savings of 127.5 billion pounds from the subsidies [illegible] flour and bread and [illegible] 60 billion pounds. Moreover, a national loaf of bread [illegible] with a weight of 250 grams will be produced to be sold for 50 cents per loaf. This [illegible] will save the difference between the price of the 82 percent flour and the current kind of flour without requiring the state to [illegible] the current quality of bread to [illegible] because there will be [illegible] of the new kind of bread amounting to 150 grams. The current loaf of bread is [illegible] dough of a weight of 150 grams per a small loaf whereas the 150-gram loaf costing 50 cents will be cut at 200 grams.

The goals can be [illegible] lowering the subsidy for bread and maintaining the second price of bread [illegible] in addition to providing skilled labor to produce the new kind of bread and realizing the goal of reducing the loss of the production will be used consumption [illegible] wastage] which can be used as feed for livestock and for poultry.

We now come to the imported super-quality flour of 72 percent extraction. We support the [illegible] to restrict the use of this kind of flour for the production of tourist bread, confectionary and other kinds of pastry. However, it is necessary to move up the price of this kind of flour from 150 pounds per ton to 250 pounds per ton. This means that we will earn an additional income of 125 million pounds [illegible] saving the price of this kind of flour and this sum will contribute toward reducing the amount of the subsidy.

However, we do not agree with the ministry on permitting the French bakeries to produce pastries from the imported 72 percent flour because we believe in the principle of specialization and in preventing the less expensive 82 percent flour from being used for producing pastries, thus providing the opportunity for the creation of a new group of fat cats.

The alternative that we offer is to allocate this imported flour exclusively for the hotels, the tourist businesses and the pastry shops on the tourist French bakeries and to prevent its use in the bakeries that utilize the 82 percent flour for the production of French bread.

Adopting these alternatives will mean reducing the subsidy for flour and for bread from 670 million pounds to 417.7 million pounds only.

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PRIVATE BAKERIES REFUSE TO PRODUCE 5-MIL LOAF OF BREAD

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 1

[Article: "Bakery Owners Prefer Special Bread"]

[Text] The Bakery Owners Branch of the Chamber of Commerce has held a meeting which included the owners of the private sector bakeries to discuss their work under the canopy of the permission to produce the special bread with doubled price.

The bakery owners have refused to produce bread from the 93.3 percent extraction flour, costing 5 mils a loaf, and have demanded that the production of this bread be confined to the public sector bakeries.

They have expressed their readiness to produce the special bread costing 10 mils per loaf.

The Ministry of Supply is currently discussing the specifications and weight of the new special loaf prior to issuing the ministerial decree implementing this step.

AL-AHRAM has learned that the proposals being studied by the ministry include a proposal for doubling the current price of the 82 percent flour and for maintaining the price of the 93.3 percent flour as it is. In the light of the experiment which will begin next week at the Mit 'Uqbah Bakery, the ministry will determine the weight of the new loaf of bread. It is expected that this weight will range from 150 to 170 grams in the light of the study that will be conducted to find out the production costs.

At the same time, the new automatic bakeries will produce the special loaf of bread now that it has been proven by experience that it is impossible to produce automatically the ordinary loaf of bread from the 93.3 percent flour.

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LIBERAL PARTY DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE SQUEEZING POLICY

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 1

[Article by Ihsan 'Abd-al-Maqsud: "General Secretariat Discusses Government Budget and Ministers' Statements. Squeezing Presidency's and Government's Expenditures Will not Solve Problem. Housing Budget Contradicts Prime Minister's Statements. Government Budget is 'Rosy' and Fails to Reflect Reality"]

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Liberal Party has discussed in its two latest meetings under the chairmanship of Mustafa Kamil Murad the statement of Dr Mustafa Khalil on the 1980 general budget. The secretariat has also discussed the ministers' statements in preparation for the party's reply to the government budget.

The party's General Secretariat held its regular meeting last Tuesday and the meeting was attended by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi, the party representative, after the secretariat's approval of the withdrawal of his resignation and the resumption of his political activity. 'Abd-al-Shafi has pledged to issue a statement explaining his position toward the party and the newspaper and his reasons for resigning.

At the outset of the meeting, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi brought up the point in the government statement on squeezing the government's and the presidency's expenditures by 50 percent. He demanded to know the volume of the government expenditures, and the sums to be squeezed so that all the citizens may know and that it may be possible to answer the statement.

The party representative (waili) cited the example of 'Ali Sabri's government which declared to the People's Assembly in 1964 that the reduction in government spending would not exceed 7.5 million pounds whereas Zakariya Muhyi-al-Din announced while delivering his ministry's statement to the People's Assembly that government spending would be reduced by more than (50) million pounds through the cancellation of allowances, the positions of bureau heads and other positions.

'Abd-al-Shafi wondered: So what prevents the government [illegible] declaring the true volume of its spending and the volume of the reduced spending?

He added: The statement of Hamas Salim's government was rash and very ambitious when he announced the construction of 100,000 housing units. Al Mustafa Khalil has also announced the construction of 200,000 units in 1990 and the appointment of 140,000 graduates in the year of prosperity. 'Abd-al-Khafi then wondered: Isn't this statement in its present form very delightful?'

Mustafa Murad answers 'Abd-al-Khafi's questions, saying: The principle of expenditure squeezing is not bad. But squeezing will have a very limited effect on solving the problem. It is well-known that the presidency's budget is 3 billion pounds and that of the Council of Ministers is 500,000 pounds. This means that the volume of the spending reduced is nearly 2.5 million pounds. This is not bad as a principle for expenditure squeezing. But the state needs billions. For example, the deficit amounts to 1.1 billion pounds. So the problem is much deeper than this. Therefore, the impact of squeezing government expenditures on the state budget is very limited.

Mustafa Murad then spoke about the principles that the government should follow during the budgetary debates, the most important being the principle of setting each item in real and accurate figures, i.e. an actual translation into figures and the analysis of these figures into quantities. On this basis, the reply will be in the form of a logical and scientific analysis. For example:

A sum of 97 million pounds for the construction of 100,000 housing units: If we analyze this figure into construction raw materials, such as cement, iron, glass panes, sanitary fittings, electricity, land and wages, we find that the sum will not be enough for 35,000 units!

Mustafa Murad then proceeded to analyze the budget, saying: The figures included in the budget are nothing but calculated problems that must be followed by a qualitative assessment within the framework of the budget as a whole. All this must be announced to the public opinion so that it may be known how possible it is to implement the projects. Else, the prices will rise sharply.

Party Structure

Majdi Salah al-Hilali then presented the final memorandum on the bill for reorganizing the party from top to bottom and for declaring the names of the leadership and of the basic and honorary members.

Majdi al-Hilali said: The change is proceeding in line with the resolutions of the Political Bureau and of the Permanent Council and with the bylaws. It has taken into consideration the loyal elements that have the time to serve.

He further added: We have heard the viewpoints of the candidates in the governorates and consideration has been given to the assignment of some basic positions and some honorary positions in the party.

The party's deputy chairman then proposed the appointment of an official party spokesman who is not a member of the secretariat and raising the number of the secretariat members from 11 to 12 [as published] members without calling this increase after the Political Bureau or the permanent council.

Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi further said: During its weekly meetings, the General Secretariat should on that include the party chairmen in the governorates, another time the [General] Congress and a third time the Editorial Board of Al-AHRAR.

The General Secretariat has approved these proposals.

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SUPPORT EXPRESSED FOR ABOLITION OF POSITION OF SOCIALIST PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 7

[Article: "Socialist Public Prosecutor: Is It A System Imported From Communist Countries, Tawfiq Zaghlul: This Position Is Independent of Ordinary Judiciary, Strange, Mustafa Nassar: Abolishing Position Will Entrench Democracy and Supremacy of Law, Dr Hilmi Murad: Task of Socialist Prosecutor Is in Conflict With Judiciary's Independence, Dr Wahid Ra'fat: Maintaining Position Is Challenge to People's Will, Rif'at al-Shahawi: Labor Party Will Ask People's Assembly to Abolish This Position"]

[Text] The People's Assembly will discuss in the next few days the new constitutional amendments, foremost of which is the socialist public prosecutor bill.

What is interesting is that opposition is now escalating in the People's Assembly among members of the ruling party and is demanding that the position of the socialist public prosecutor be abolished in Egypt.

Among the judiciary, the opposition to this office is almost unanimous.

In this report, Al-AHRAR presents the views of politicians and legists on this issue that has aroused a long argument.

What have they said.

Tawfiq Zaghlul, member of the People's Assembly (from National Party), has said that the powers of the socialist public prosecutor come within the jurisdiction of the public prosecutor. The system is altogether borrowed from the socialist system of rule in the countries that do not follow the traditional democratic system. These socialist countries use the position of the socialist prosecutor as an instrument in the hands of the ruling party to protect the so-called "people's gains."

In the democratic countries, the presence of this office independently of the ordinary judiciary agency is considered strange. This is why we find that the position of the socialist public prosecutor in Egypt has become shaky with the firm establishment of the principle of the supremacy of the law, meaning that the prosecutor's powers have become the object of criticism and attack with the passage of time.

On the other hand, we can almost find no cases that have to be entrusted to the socialist public prosecutor rather than to the state's other ordinary judiciary agencies. In the atmosphere of freedom and of the supremacy of the law which has begun to flourish in Egypt, we cannot agree to entrust to the socialist public prosecutor even the custodiansnip cases that could have been left to him in the past.

Sawfat Aaghlul added: If we proceed to the major cases pertaining to public funds or to administrative corruption, we find that the role of the socialist public prosecutor is non-existent and that it does not go beyond the point of hearing the charges and collecting evidence, if that. It is unreasonable to give the socialist public prosecutor any powers that undermine the individual freedom or people's properties. If given such powers, his role would not be different from that of the public prosecutor as long as we view issues in a sound legal manner without mixing the law with politics (sic).

But if the cases pertain to the state security, then there are the state security courts and the special military courts.

Counselor Mukhtar Nassar, a People's Assembly member, has said: The position of socialist public prosecutor is unjustifiable in any democratic society that enjoys the principle of the separation of powers. The judiciary authority is the side with the power to prosecute any citizen who commits any violation. Moreover the position of the socialist public prosecutor creates duality and conflict between the prosecutor's office and the other agencies.

Counselor Nassar believes that the separation of powers requires the final abolition of the position of the socialist public prosecutor and that the abolition of this position will undoubtedly entrench democratic life and the supremacy of the law in Egypt.

He asserted that he will ask the People's Assembly when it discusses the constitutional amendments to abolish finally the position of the socialist public prosecutor.

Dr Muhammad Nur Farah, a former minister of education and the political law professor at 'Ayn Shams University, has a certain viewpoint. He has said:

The system of the socialist public prosecutor is borrowed from the system followed in the north European countries, both socialist and capitalist countries. This position started in Sweden and the position holder kept an eye on public conduct and behavior and had the duty of notifying the authorities concerned, especially the parliament, of any violation requiring correction.

But here in Egypt we must stress that if there is anything to call for the presence of the socialist public prosecutor in accordance with the

stipulations of the permanent constitution, then it is required that this office be confined to keeping an eye on what the press publishes generally, on the reports received from the control agencies and on the information it receives from the citizens and then to notify the authorities concerned. If the legal requirements of a crime are available, the public prosecution must be notified so that it may follow the provisions of the law. If the matter requires a political investigation or a legislative amendment, then the socialist public prosecutor must notify the People's Assembly so that it may adopt whatever is necessary to combat the violations.

Dr Hilmi Murad further added: Under the present conditions, there is duality between the position of the public prosecutor and the socialist public prosecutor. This duality is evident: The same issue is investigated by the socialist public prosecutor and by the public prosecution at the same time. This often leads to either gradually killing the issues investigated or to violations and excesses against the parties investigated.

Dr Hilmi Murad demands that the independence of the judiciary be preserved

Dr Wahid Ra'fat, the dean of the constitutional law legists, has said: All the legist and all the leaderships of the political parties and of the trade unions have demanded that the position of the socialist public prosecutor be abolished. Why do we insist on its presence? Is this a challenge against the people's will?

Moreover, President al-Sadat has not approved the socialist public prosecutor law and has demanded that this office be more of a political agency than a judiciary agency and that the investigations it conducts be political and not criminal investigations.

President al-Sadat will turn the Custodianship Court into an ethics court; therefore, President al-Sadat wants to change the picture in a fundamental manner.

Dr Wahid Ra'fat has demanded that the socialist public prosecutor position be abolished because its power encroach on those of the public prosecutor. Moreover, the socialist public prosecutor poses a threat to liberties and property. He can keep people under detention for no more than 24 hours and he can order that disposal of property be stopped, even insofar as the wife and children are concerned. This is a serious precedent in the history of the judiciary.

Restriction on People's Freedom

Rif'at al-Mahgub, the secretary general of the Socialist Labor Party, has said: Our party believes that it is necessary to abolish this position. We will request its abolition through deputies in the People's Assembly when the constitutional amendments are discussed because this position is alien to the Egyptian people. Moreover, it creates a duality for which there is no place. Our city judiciary system meets all the requirements to defend the creation of this position.

The Labor Party secretary general pointed out: There is nothing more decisive in proving our viewpoint than President al-Sadat's statement during his meeting with the Supreme Council of the Judiciary Authorities that the powers of the socialist prosecutor will be confined to political issues alone. This is considered an act restoring respect to our judiciary traditions. However, we believe that this position is futile because it embodies an encroachment on the powers of the judiciary authority--the original sovereign authority which has the ability to deal with any violation of the law. The ordinary laws are capable of achieving the goal with all the popular guarantees they contain. Perhaps the decisions that the socialist public prosecutor adopted to exclude some candidates from the trade union elections, from the People's Assembly elections and from the elections for the local councils and the decisions taken by the administrative judiciary revoking those of the socialist public prosecutor--perhaps these decisions confirm decisively our viewpoint regarding the abolition of this office.

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ZUHAYRI DISSATISFIED WITH PRESS BILL, SUPREME PRESS COUNCIL

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 24 Dec 79 p 8

[Interview With Kamil Zuhayri by Layla 'Abd-al-Salam; "Kamil Zuhayri: "Journalists Union Membership, Like Citizenship, May not Be Revoked"]

[Text] He believes that the Journalist Union membership, like citizenship, may not be revoked.

He has been advocating democratic socialism for tens of years. Despite this, he prefers unionist action to be independent of the intervention of parties.

They have called him "communist," perhaps because he is in the opposition and because he calls for the freedom of the other opinion and for respecting the view of the minority.

Layla 'Abd-al'Salam, as AL-AHRAR reported, has conducted this interview with him so that he may present his views and opinions and may answer the accusations levelled against him, especially since our guest in this edition is a candidate for the position of journalists doyen.

[Question] [I began my interview with Kamil Zuhayri, the candidate for the position of journalists doyen, with the question] Is it true that you are a communist, as people say?

[Answer] These are police and intelligence accusations or election plots. The proof is that I have never been jailed or arrested from the days of Sidqi Pasha in 1946 and until the present. Am I, therefore, a communist? A communist is not afraid to say that he is communist.

It is a kind of debasement and intimidation when a nationalist is called a communist. Is any person in the opposition to be called a communist? The United States invited me in 1951 and the epitome of capitalism could not invite a communist.

Moreover, the communists level accusations against me. I am a democratic socialist. Go back to my life history, my intellectual activity and my writings since I started working in journalism.

Nationalist Left

[Question] So what is your intellectual inclination?

[Answer] Leftist, but nationalist leftist. I have been leftist and will continue to be leftist, in the sense that I believe in democratic socialism and in the sense that democratic socialism must be implemented. My faith is in defending liberties and the freedom of the press.

For example, I support the nationalization of the Suez Canal. But I believe nationalization was the idea of Muhammad Farid in 1910. I wrote in ROZ AL-YUSUF in 1956 that Muhammad Farid was the one who called for nationalization of the Suez Canal in AL-LIWA' newspaper in 1910. I demanded that his name be included in the national charter because he was the first to demand the canal's nationalization. Therefore, I believe in leftist nationalism that recovers wealth from the hands of the foreigners and restores it to the people.

I defend the public and press liberties and I have written that the creation of a strong state and a weak citizen harms both the homeland and the citizen, meaning that socialism must be applied through democracy.

To cite another example, in the days of the Socialist Union I demanded that it be called the democratic [Socialist Union], to underline democracy.

I have been inclined since the beginning of my life toward the democratic socialist line. This is the secret behind the hostility of some communists toward me. Moreover, some of them have attacked me in the press.

[Question] So you belong to the Nationa. Party which advocates democratic socialism.

[Answer] I belong to no party because my preoccupation with the unionist action has taken all my time and energy and has kept me away from political action.

[Question] What is your opinion of the nomination of some unionists by the parties?

[Answer] I am against this step because the unionist action is broader than the political action. A union belongs to all the parties, both rightist and leftist. This is our old history. In a union, both the left and the right unite and act in solidarity, regardless of the partisan identity of each.

Before the revolution, Hafiz Mahmud was the [journalists] union representative [wakil] and a member of the Constitutional Liberal Party. Mahmud Abu-al-Fath, the dayen, was from al-Wafd Party. The two disagreed politically over the treaty and over other political issues. But insofar as the unionist action was concerned, they acted in solidarity within the union.

with our problems and our difficulties, we are certain of weakness and not certain of power and the union is not supposed to have partisan combinations or partisan limits inside it.

[Question]

[Answer] The reason for my objection to the proposals made by the People's Assembly speaker is that the proposals contradict the constitution and reverse the constitutional gains scored by the 1971 constitution regarding opinion liberties and the freedom of the press. I am afraid that I can say without exaggeration that the proposals pounce on the heritage of Egypt that has known the press for more than 1.0 centuries. The first newspaper in the Arab world was published in Egypt in 1828. Moreover, Egypt knew the first laws on the freedom of the press published in both Arabic and French a 100 years ago. Egypt is the country which witnessed in its national history the demonstrations staged in 1909, i.e. 70 years ago, under the leadership of the old National Party to protest the British authority's reinstatement of the 1881 publication law because of the shackles and restrictions it imposed on the freedom of the press.

Egypt, which is now building its political system by clinging to the virtue of dialogue and by expressing the utmost in the sphere of liberties, is facing the danger of these legislations or proposals that shout with flags and gags.

I cannot claim credit for Kamil Zuhayri's efforts in drawing the attention of the government which calls for dialogue. There is no doubt that an opening up to dialogue is beneficial because it is a virtue and because the partisan system believes in the right of the minority and in the so-called virtue of dialogue.

[Question] What about the program that you have presented?

[Answer] The most important aspect of my program is that the journalists union membership, like the attorneyship, may not be revoked and that protection of the law is a sacred commitment. It is an ethical and professional principle by which we all abide, regardless of how different are our interpretations.

The current discussion on the concerns of the press and of the journalists throws heavier and more difficult tasks on the shoulders of the union. Our problems are legal, economic and human.

We shall, both its council and its general assembly, must regain the initiative and must prepare a new publication bill.

[Question] What is your opinion of the new press bill?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

If the prosecution of the government charges a journalist with publishing a false report, they have to prove in accordance with the French law that the journalist has done so intentionally.

In the Egyptian laws, the journalist has to prove his goodwill. If he writes that life is black, he must prove it.

When I organize the opposition press, I must give it the legal guarantee because there is no sense in giving a license to an opposition paper if the journalist is not given the possibility of opposing.

The committee has failed to pay attention to organizing the future the press. All the laws restricting the freedom of the press, whether the publication law or the penal code, must be re-examined.

(Question) But what do you have to say about the Supreme Press Council?

(Answer) I do not approve of it and I oppose it strongly because there is nothing with the name of supreme council without being an organization from top. The press councils in the world, be they in Britain, Switzerland or Sweden, or known to be non-governmental councils and the government does not at all interfere in the appointment of their members.

(Question) What are the reasons for your opposition to the position of dean?

(Answer) My slogan is "when I build then I do so on top of what the others have already built." There are numerous unionists and the issue is not one of competition. There are problems that must surface. In election campaigns, such problems do surface. The campaigns are also an opportunity for the journalists to say what they have and to discuss their problems. I still believe that the journalists' union must regain the initiative by drafting the press and publication law. To leave the initiative to the state is a mistake because the union represents all and the new press bill can reflect the problems of all the journalists. But what is the difference between the two cases? Had we not left the initiative to the government, as we did last year, the efforts of a whole year could have been saved and now the union taken the initiative, in compliance with the idea that those who draft the press law are the journalists, we could have gained a year.

(Question) If you win the position of dean, would you prefer to devote your full time to the position?

(Answer) Judging on the basis of the union's situation, the dean must devote his full time to the union so that he may be able to solve some of the problems. I will reject any other position, and there is no doubt that the cases of free journalism are not equaled by those of any position. The union's conditions require this (rejection) also.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

FOOD SUPPLY AUTHORITY IMPORTS DAMAGED WHEAT

Cairo Al-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Dec 79 p 1

[Article: "Ministry of Supply Imports 25,000 Tons of Wheat Infested With Rust"]

[Text] The Food Supply Authority has imported 25,000 tons of wheat. The reports of the food experts of the Ministry of Health have proven that the deal is infested with rust and is unfit for human consumption or for pulverization before being treated.

The Supply Authority has asked the Silos Company to clear the deal from Port Said quickly and to store it in one of the storehouses in al-Qalyubiyah governorate until it is disposed of.

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COURT LIFTS POLITICAL BAN IMPOSED ON 'ABD-AL-FATTAH HASAN

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Dec 79 p 1

[Article: "Administrative Court Decides to Abolish Political Banishment of 'Abd-al-Fattah Hasan"]

[Text] The Administrative Court has issued a ruling revoking the decision to punish 'Abd-al-Fattah Hasan politically and has awarded Hasan the sum he had demanded as compensation, namely the sum of one piaster constituting a symbolic compensation. The previous People's Assembly resolved to drop the membership of 'Abd-al-Fattah (Pasha) Hasan, one of the founders of the dissolved al-Wafd Party, after having decided to consider him one of the persons to whom the penalty of political banishment applied in accordance with law No 33 of 1978 because he was one of the people who corrupted political life in Egypt before the revolution.

'Abd-al-Fattah Hasan resorted to the Administrative Court demanding cancellation of the decision and compensation for the damage caused him by the decision that deprived him of his political rights and banned him from engaging in any political activity.

The first circuit of the Administrative Court issued its ruling last Tuesday under the chairmanship of Counsellor Mustafa Kamal Ibrahim, the deputy chairman of the State Council and the court chairman, and in the presence of counsellors of 'Ali al-Khadin and 'Abd-al-Mun'in 'Amarah as members and of 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Amir as secretary.

Citing the reasons for its ruling, the court said that the defender, 'Abd-al-Fattah Hasan, did not cause corruption in the political life before the revolution, that a person cannot be denied his political rights in accordance with this law unless he is proven to have caused political corruption and that it is unpermissible to charge him with political corruption just because he held a ministerial post before the revolution.

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ZUHAYRI EMERGES FROM ELECTIONS AS NEW JOURNALISTS DOYEN

Cairo Al-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Dec 79 p 1

[Article: "Outcome of Journalists Union Elections"]

[Text] As a result of the Journalists Union elections last Friday, Kamil Zuhayri has won the position of doyen and Mahmud al-Maraghi, Aminah Shafiq, Fathi Rizq, Hussayn 'Abd-al-Razzaq and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah have won the positions of Union Council members.

The union's elections to fill the position of the doyen and one half the seats of the council members had been postponed several times. Kamil Zuhayri, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi and Khalil Tahir had nominated themselves to the position of doyen. Last week, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi, who had the support of the heads of the national newspapers, withdrew his nomination but the council refused the withdrawal because it was received more than 1 month after the legal date and it was decided to consider the votes cast for al-Sharqawi correct votes. Al-Sharqawi got 8 votes out of a total of 499 votes while Khalil Tahir got 61 votes. Kamil Zuhayri got 61 votes.

For the council membership, Mahmud al-Maraghi got 291 votes, Aminah Shafiq 211, Fathi Rizq 211, Hussayn 'Abd-al-Razzaq 196, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah 159 and Jamal Kamil 131 votes.

The Union Council is currently discussing the way to fill the seat of colleague Ibrahim al-Ba'thi, the union representative (naqib), who died last Thursday.

There are two opinions in this regard.

One opinion says that colleague 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Islambuli, who got the highest number of votes after those who won the last by-elections, should fill the seat won by Ibrahim al-Ba'thi.

The other opinion says that colleague Sa'd Imam'i, who got the highest votes after those who won in the recent elections, should fill the seat.

The matter will be decided in the light of the legal interpretation of the Journalists Union bylaws.

CUSTOMS FEES, PROCEDURES DESCRIBED AS COMPLICATED, PERILOUS

Cairo Al-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Dec 79 p 4, 5

[Article by Mustafa Kamil Murad: "Opposition's Opinion: Customs and Perils"]

[Text] The customs are the Egyptian Customs Authority and its various departments and sections. The perils are what the commodity importers, be they merchants, factory owners or other citizens, are exposed to. In this quick report we will review briefly the most significant difficulties encountered by the Egyptian importers generally (as well as by the owners of the factories set up in accordance with law No 43 of 1974 concerning the investment of Arab and foreign funds and considered the cornerstone for the success of the economic open-door policy and for the realization of its goals).

There is no doubt that customs constitute one of the mainstays for collecting sovereignty revenues for the state by way of the customs fees. The revenues from these fees in the first 11 months of 1979 amounted to 751 million pounds out of a tax total, for the same period amounting to 1.849 billion pounds, i.e. 40.7 percent of this total tax. This means that the customs fees represent a large percentage of the total state sovereignty revenues.

But in the view of the Liberals, the matter demands that the government re-examine the method of tax collection, the measures followed in collection and the complications and regulations that may accompany these measures and may require a long time, thus forcing the importer to pay additional storage fees, plus the bank interest that he has to shoulder and the theft or damage that may occur during this time. There is no doubt that all these expenses are added to the cost of the goods and are ultimately shouldered by the Egyptian consumer in the form of higher prices. Add to this the presence in the customs tariff of numerous contradictions that should be eliminated, such as the collection of a 20 percent fee for ordinary trucks whereas a fee of 40 percent is collected for trailer trucks that are considered a technological development in the trucking industry. Nobody knows the reason for this difference which represents one of the perils to which the importer is exposed and which is paid by the consumer.

Moreover, the customs fees for some goods have soared up to 25% percent because such goods are still considered luxuries, as they were in the 1960's. The Tax Agency has forgotten that we have entered the 1980's and that what was a luxury 40 or 30 years ago is not a luxury now. The third peril is the disagreement that arises between the customs people and the importers over assessment of the value of imported goods--an assessment that is considered a basis for determining the customs fees and that has risen sharply as a result of the importation of various kinds of commodities in the wake of the economic open-door policy. The value of goods imported in 1979 has exceeded 5 billion pounds. The disagreement in assessment results in delaying clearance of the goods, causes the payment of storage fees and the pileup of goods in the ports and forces the treasury to pay the delay fines--fines which exceeded 60 million dollars in 1978. After that year, the government has failed, either intentionally or out of forgetfulness, to mention the sum of the delay fines paid by the treasury and ultimately considered by the Egyptian consumer.

The fourth peril is what happens to the goods that are unloaded in one port to be re-shipped to another port or the transit goods that are unloaded in a port to be re-shipped to another port in the Arab Republic of Egypt. In addition to the complications that occur in the application of the two temporary permit systems or the drawback.

An example of this case is when a factory in Suez City imports its production requirements via Port Said. Instead of having the customs formalities completed all at once in the Suez Port, what happens is that these customs formalities are performed in the Suez and if any of the forms papers are lost in Port Said, then the importer has to pay the fees for what is lost plus a fine equal to the fees. This is known commonly as death and ruination.

These are some of the perils to which we want to draw the government's attention. They are some of the perils that we saw during our 19 years of membership in the People's Assembly and in its financial and economic committees. We want to draw the government's attention to these perils so that the government may re-examine its customs tariffs and its economic and administrative regulations.

It is the opinion of the Liberal Party that the cure is simple and easy, if the measures are simplified and if the various types of fees are unified in order to cut down the costs of the goods and to save the lost time--which constitutes wasted and lost money. Moreover, if this is done, it will be easier to compute the customs fees and to increase the revenues of the Ministry of Finance. The solution is summed up in the following:

First, a fixed importation fee amounting to 20 percent of the value of all imports should be collected. If, as the minister of planning has stated, the value of imports in 1980 will amount to 5.380 billion pounds, then the total revenues will amount to nearly 1.119 billion pounds, with an

increase of approximately [illegible] million pounds over the current revenues. A direct sale tax can be then collected from the buyer, depending on the type of commodity (whether a luxury or a semi-luxury commodity). The complex system of collecting the additional customs fees (such as municipal fees, statistical fees and plot fees) should be abolished. Definite sums can be included in the state budget for the budgets of the aforementioned agencies.

We have noticed from the government statement that it is about to levy a sale tax on goods instead of the production and consumption fees currently in force. We support this inclination and we hope that the government will succeed in implementing it.

Second, insofar as the value of the imported goods is concerned, we believe that the value of the bills accompanying the goods should be taken as a basis and the goods should be then released immediately. If the customs authorities suspect the correctness of the bills, they may then sue the importer through the legal channels instead of impounding the goods and subjecting them to storage fees and to damage and pilferage.

Third, a maximum limit to customs fees must be set and this limit should not, in our opinion, exceed [illegible] percent of the value of the goods, except for alcohol and tobacco. The customs fees must be re-examined so that we may not go beyond the smuggling point which is well-known to economists and which, when surpassed, causes goods to be smuggled, thus causing the Ministry of Finance to lose the revenues altogether--as is evidently occurring at present. We have heard that the government will follow this policy and we agree with it and support it on this principle. However, we disagree with the maximum limit of customs fees proposed by the government, namely the limit of 150 percent.

There are some of the perils in the customs policy. We have cited them as examples and have offered brief solutions for them. We will return to the issue in the reply on the government statement to underline the opposition's objectivity and patriotism viz-a-viz the issue of correcting the customs system and of eliminating the perils.

[illegible]
[illegible] ABU.

YOUTH, SPORTS MINISTRY'S POLICY ATTACKED

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 31 Dec 79 p 2

[Article: "National Party Members Attack His Policy"]

[Text] Dr 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan, the minister of state for youth and sports, was subjected to a violent attack and was interrupted more than once by members of the Democratic National Party's Youth Committee during his delivery of his statement on his ministry's policy in the coming phase.

The committee members attacked the policy of the minister who has concentrated all the youth and sports services in the capital and in Alexandria and who has forgotten to mention what the government intends to do in the provinces.

The members asserted that this is a faulty policy characterized by sectarianism [as published], that they will not permit repetition of the joke that the government plays on the provinces every year and that the budget will not pass the People's Assembly unless the provinces get their financial rights in full.

The minister tried to absorb the members' anger and announced that 85 percent of the ministry's allocations will go to the localities to complete their sports installations and to expand their youth centers.

8490
CSO: 4802

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO RECLAIM LAND IN NUBIA

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 31 Dec 79 p 2

[Article: "Government Deceives Nubia's Inhabitants"]

[Text] 'Awad 'Uthman, the deputy of New Nub[illegible] has accused the government of laxity and negligence in providing care to the inhabitants of the new resettlement areas in Nubia.

During the People's Assembly discussion on the projects to invade and exploit the desert, the deputy said that the government has deceived the inhabitants of the New Nubia despite the sacrifices that they made to build the High Dam and even though they have responded to the homeland's call.

The deputy wondered about the fate of the ministerial decree concerning the reclamation of [illegible],700 feddans in Wadi Shu'ayb. The decree had announced that this acreage would be delivered to the inhabitants of Nubia on 30 June 1977 whereas only 800 feddans have been handed over so far.

False Contracts

The deputy also said that the government announced the reclamation of [illegible],000 other feddans in 1980, that the land reclamation companies have not reclaimed a single centimeter of these lands until now and that thousands of families have not received agricultural land since the resettlement year.

False Promises

The deputy revealed the imaginary ownership contracts which the government has distributed to hundreds of families, saying that hundreds of families have not received a single inch of land yet. He also said that the Upper Egypt Agricultural Company is still refusing to hand over the lands to the citizens of Nubia.

The deputy demanded that the issue be referred to the Agriculture and Irrigation Committee to discuss it and to find immediate solutions for the problems of thousands of families who live in the New Nubia.

Registration by governors

Deputy 'Abd-al-Mun'in Ahmad 'Ali demanded that the authority to register the new desert land be given to the governors instead of being in the hands of the cooperative associations which make on the farmers demands beyond their capacity before registering the land in farmers' names. The deputy also demanded that the priority be given to the destitute farmers.

Issue Not Settled Yet

Ahmad al-Qabbani, the New Valley deputy, noted that the issue of drainage of the reclaimed land in the New Valley has not been settled yet and that vast areas have been reclaimed but have not been exploited yet.

Al-Qabbani added: The water rations are not enough to irrigate the land and the reason is that the design of the canals is faulty and does not enable them to provide irrigation water for the land. As a result of this, there are large areas of land that have turned into fallow lands at the end point of the canals, in addition to the breakdown in the irrigation stations due to negligence and laxity.

Special Session

Dr Ibrahim Awwarah, an independent deputy, objected to the manner in which this serious issue, which is connected with the future of Egypt and with the food security and the green revolution that we aspire to achieve, was discussed.

Dr 'Awwarah called for a special session to discuss the issue of desert utilization in the presence of all the government officials concerned so that immediate solutions may be found for the problems obstructing the implementation of these vital projects.

Deputy 'A'isha Hasanayn demanded the formation of special desert committees to prepare for invading the desert according to scientific methods so as to achieve prosperity and the needs of Egypt's people.

After lengthy discussions, the Assembly decided to refer the issue to the Agriculture and Irrigation Committee.

Babs
CSO: 4802

DR HIJAZI COMMENTS ON BUDGET DEFICITS, OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Dec 79 p 1

[Article: "Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hijazi Says: Deficit of 400 Million Pounds in Budget During War Years and of One Billion Pounds This Year, Despite Aid and Loans, What Will Happen If We Fall into Political Crisis With Wheat Exporting Countries?"]

[Text] Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hijazi, a former prime minister, dealt with some important economic problems in the colloquia to boost Arab investments which was held at the Arab Economic Unity Council.

Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hijazi criticized the many economic laws and regulations issued in Egypt and warned that the outside world will not be reassured unless the political, tax and economic legislations are clear, secure and stable.

He pointed out that the problems that have become common are the problems of individuality and the inclination of each minister to interpret these economic decrees and regulations to his own liking.

Budget Deficit is One Billion Pounds

The former prime minister said that even though he was prime minister at times when the country was in a state of war and when there were no Arab or U.S. funds, the budget deficit did not exceed 400 million pounds in 7 years whereas we find now that the budget deficit in a single year amounts to one billion pounds.

Egypt Imports 4 Million Tons of Wheat

The former prime minister warned of the danger of dependence on the importation of goods, food and clothing, giving an example of Egypt which imports 4 million tons of wheat. He wondered what the situation would be if a political crisis were to develop with the wheat exporting countries.

The former prime minister projected, in figures, the absence of an Egyptian economic strategy throughout 25 years and pointed out how the absence of this

strategy has caused little real capital to be channelled toward the Egyptian production projects. From 1960 to 1979, the Arab funds and the Arab financial establishments have contributed no more than $57 million pounds toward the development projects in Egypt.

It should pointed out that by analysing this figure in relationship to the projects in which the monies have been acquired, it becomes obvious that most of the monies have been channelled toward the infrastructure projects and a little portion toward the production projects.

The former prime minister called for investing in Egyptian true development and said that there have to be economic feasibility studies on the projects so as to reach the point of their implementation by the private and public sectors.

It is Required to Raise Standard of Egyptian Man

Dr. Abdel Aziz Hijazi called for raising the standard of the Egyptian man, and the training process. The individual income in Egypt is 160 dollars a year, i.e. 40 cents per day. He said, however, that the planning should be according to principles that we should not give the free market absolute freedom and that it is necessary to channel the investments toward the sphere of utilities and not toward real estate.

Note.
[illegible]

[illegible]

MAIN POINTS IN LIBERAL PARTY'S REPLY TO GOVERNMENT STATEMENT OUTLINED

[illegible] AL-ANBAA in Arabic 31 Dec 92 p 5

[Article by Ihsan 'Abd-al-Maqsud: "Parties Urge Call on Prime Minister to Announce Real Figure for Increase in Prices and Wages; Important Message from Liberal Party to Central Committee's First Secretary, Fact-Finding Committee Including People's Assembly Speaker and Leaders of Opposition Parties to Visit Soviet Union and Iran"]

[Text] The Liberal Party's Permanent Council held its ordinary meeting at the party headquarters last Wednesday.

The Central Committee refused to have the council's meeting held in the main hall which had been seized by the Democratic National Party.

The meeting dealt with preparing the reply to the government statement and with the party's role in the next phase.

Mustafa Kamil Murad, chairman of the Liberal Party, said at the outset of the meeting: Engaging in political action depends on an objective intellectual dialogue free of vituperation, unfounded investigations, slander and defamation.

He added: The party's establishment of new positions, the government's budget explanation statement in the People's Assembly in view of the political repercussions of the opposition's partisan activity. The party will issue a statement in reply to the government statement and a copy of this reply will be sent to the People's Assembly speaker.

Party's Reply Statement

Mustafa Kamil Murad outlined the reply's main indicatory points of support for and opinions in opposition to the government statement and to the ministers' statements generally. He said that the reply does not deviate from the spirit of political action through a constructive democratic dialogue free of demagoguery.

He further added: The government has accepted the party's opinion in most of its policies, such as the reduced interest rate and implementation of Law No. 91, even though it has ignored the full-time service allowance for the professionals.

The Liberal Party chairman also called on the prime minister to declare the real figure for the increase of prices and wages in the budget because prices and wages constitute the fundamental axis. He also said that the economic crisis in Egypt cannot be overcome without the establishment of a commercial currency market.

Foreign Policy Issues

The party chairman also dealt with the Iranian-U.S. crisis, saying: The Iranian approach is reckless and faulty. It is incompatible with the international traditions and laws or with any divine religion. As for the United States, it has won the revolt from Khomeyni and has gained the support of the western and Islamic world.

Moreover, he said: The 20 percent rise in oil prices has shaken the entire world economy and has caused a severe economic crisis throughout the world. Moreover, the rise in the price of gold has also led to bad reactions, the most significant being the international currency collapse. This has had bad impact on the developing countries that import oil and that represent two-thirds the world.

[illegible] Assembly member [illegible] asked several questions and Mustafa Kamil Murad answered, saying: The party has declared its opinion regarding the normalization of Egypt's relations with the Arab countries and with the Soviet Union within the framework of the agreements of our relations with all countries of the world. In its statement, the government has expressed its viewpoint on the foreign policy in detail. We were the first to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in response to the will of the Egyptian people. The Liberal Party was also addressed an official message by the central committee's first secretary asking him not to close the door of dialogue between Egypt and the Arab countries through the official channels and non-official channels--by way of the opposition parties. There is also the important point of Egypt's relations with the Islamic world. Egypt is maintaining these relations and is exerting efforts to bolster the Islamic nation.

Party-Ending Organization

As for Ahmad Nasr al-Rayi, the party's vice president, he explained the formation of a fact-finding committee comprised of the People's Assembly speaker and members of the Liberal, Labor and Unionist parties to visit the Soviet Union and Iran to meet with officials, following the precedent of President Al-Sadat's great initiative.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] representation to the parties. Political action is continuous: in contact with all classes of the people and in order to solve their problems. Political success is obtained in reaching the hearts of the villages, now that the age of sitting in air-conditioned offices has gone.

Sgd.
[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AROUSES DEPUTIES

[illegible] Al-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Jan 86 pp 1, 8

[Article by [illegible] 'Abd-al-Hadi:] "When Should We Believe Government Figures? Deputies Declare: We Will Electrify [illegible] Villages, Government Representative: Budget Is Enough for 180 Villages Only, National Party Deputies Demand Investigation, Text of Government Statements on Village Electrification, Head of Rural Electrification Authority Admits Budget Contradictory Statements"

[Text] The National Party deputies in the People's Assembly were enraged when they discovered that the party's government presents to them conflicting figures and statements.

The government announced in its statement to the assembly that electricity will be introduced to [illegible]200 more villages whereas Engineer 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Sayyad, the government representative in the People's Assembly and the head of the Rural Electrification Authority, declared before the People's Assembly Industry Committee that the financial appropriations are enough to introduce electricity to 180 villages only.

The industry committee members have said that as deputies representing the Democratic National Party, they are put in an embarrassing position. The party's government issues declarations and statements which it cannot implement. The deputies also said that silence cannot be kept over the government's conflicting figures.

The members have further said that this approach causes the masses to lose their confidence in the government's present and future statements and, consequently, in the National Party deputies whom the people have chosen by election.

At the end of the meeting, the committee members decided that the three ministers concerned, namely the ministers of electricity, of planning and of finance, appear before the People's Assembly Industry Committee so that the statements made by these three ministers may be investigated and so that the full facts may be announced to the masses.

[redacted] asserted that the serious contradiction in the declarations made by the government is the result of confusion and of the lack of study. He further asserted that the situation is very serious and that there can be no silence over it.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee announced that it will contact immediately the ministers concerned who had avoided the meeting for fear of facing the deputies while the deputies became lost in the facts revealed.

END

CSN: 6761

[illegible] PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANIES SAID LOSING BUSINESS

[illegible] Cairo Al-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Jan 80 p 1

[Article: "Accounting Agency Uncovers Deterioration of [illegible] Public Sector Companies"]

[Text] The Central Accounting Agency has uncovered the deterioration in the works of some public sector companies--a deterioration which affects Egypt's international revenues in free currencies. The report submitted by the agency to the People's Assembly Economic Committee and Plan and Budget Committee states that the import and export activities of these companies have declined in comparison with previous years and that there has been a drop in the value of the commercial profit and in the value of the total production--at market price--of al-Nasr Import and Export Company, the Egyptian Foreign Trade Company, the Public Trade and Chemicals Company, the Arab Company for Foreign Trade, the Plows and Engineering Company, the Public Company for Engineering Works, the Egyptian Car Dealership Company and al-Wadi Company for the Exportation of Agricultural Crops.

[illegible]
CSO: 4820

NEW PARTY APPLIES FOR LICENSE

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 7 Jan 80 p 1

[Article: "New Progressive International Party Applies to Parties Committee"]

[Text] A new party known by the name of the Progressive International Party has submitted its papers to the Parties Committee. The papers were submitted by Kamal Qutub al-Muhami as representative of the party founders. The party's constituent assembly includes a number of university youths, professors and workers. The party protects in its program the idea of unification through an internationalist look.

The Parties Committee has not begun to study the new party's program because it is currently preoccupied with studying the request of the People's Party which was submitted by Dr Muhammad Sayyid Mustafa, a researcher in the National Research Institute, in his capacity as representative of the party founders.

8494
CSO: 4802

NATIONAL PARTY SAID TRYING TO ATTRACT FORMER LABOR PARTY LEADER

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 7 Jan 80 p 2

[Article: "Ibrahim Shukri Says: Abu-Ra'iyah Has Failed in Partisan Action, Abu-Ra'iyah Replies, National Party Tries"]

[Text] Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, chairman of the Socialist Labor Party, has criticized Mahmud Abu-Ra'iyah, his former colleague and the former deputy chairman of the Labor Party. Ibrahim Shukri has said that the only explanation he has given regarding Abu-Ra'iyah's resignation and the explanation on which he insists is that Abu-Ra'iyah could not meet the assignments entrusted to him in the party and that he wanted to leave confusion and division in the party.

Shukri said that this is unreasonable from a man who believes in democracy. He added: Whoever wants to march with us must know that the path is rugged, and woe to us if the free word disappears.

Abu-Ra'iyah Replies

Mahmud Abu-Ra'iyah has told Al-AHRAR that he wishes the Socialist Labor Party and its chairman, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, all success and that he feels that his presence during the foundation of the party was important but that he now finds himself a burden on the party which has been accused of being a party of rebellion. Now that the party is no longer a rebel party, we hope to find from it patriotic positions that reflect a constructive opposition. Abu-Ra'iyah has also said that he beseeches God to strengthen Ibrahim Shukri and give him success so that he may be able to control the former members of the former national Young Egypt Party instead of being controlled by them.

National Party Tries

Al-AHRAR has also learned that there have been constant contacts between a number of leaderships of the Democratic National Party and some members of the Labor Party and that these leaderships are trying to attract these members after they announce their resignation from the Labor Party in solidarity with Abu-Ra'iyah. Some People's Assembly members have said that the endeavors include Abu-Ra'iyah himself and that this is their interpretation of the meeting of Dr Mustafa Khalil's meeting with Abu-Ra'iyah.

LIBERAL PARTY CLAIMS GOVERNMENT ADOPTS ITS PRINCIPLES, IMPLEMENTS THEM POORLY

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Jan 80 pp 1, 8

[Article by Ihsan 'Abd-al-Maqsud: "Liberal Party Declares: Government Statement Has Failed to Include Clear Policy for Every Minister. Political Vacuum Has Led to Emergence of Radical Organizations. Government Has Adopted Principles of Liberals But Implementation Is Poor"]

[Text] In its reply to the government statement, the Liberal Party has declared that the political vacuum in Egypt has led to the emergence of the radical rightist and leftist inclinations and that the youths are beginning to get attracted by these inclinations because of the weakness of the parties.

The government and the ruling party are still dealing unfairly with the opposition. The ruling party has seized the premises of the Women's Organization after dissolving this organization and it still refuses to return the opposition premises that were seized previously by Egypt's Party.

In their meeting to answer the government statement, the secretariat members declared that the government statement has not contained a definite policy, that the ministers' reports have come up with generalities and that the government adopts in its statement the Liberal Party's principles but implements them poorly.

The party chairman has said that the government statement has contained weak points, the most important being its failure to draw up a clear and definite policy for each minister. He also said that the government has adopted what the Liberal Party has called for in connection with the National Investment Bank which is intended to save the public sector from its subservience to the government and in connection with the foundation of a National Housing Bank to provide loans to the private sector and the industrial sector at an interest rate of no more than three percent. He said that all this has been advocated by the Liberal Party and it generally constitutes a sound political framework. But the implementation is not sound. The Liberal Party chairman stressed that the party offers the government sound and well-studied solutions and that the government should try to implement them soundly.

The Liberal Party chairman has acknowledged the weak influence of the [illegible] parties in Egypt and has said that the organized and strong [illegible] of the radical leftist and rightist groups is due to the movement of a political [illegible] that the people in the youth to be convinced by certain methods.

The Liberal Party's General Secretariat held its weekly meeting last Tuesday to answer the government statement on the 1985 budget and plan.

The Council of Specialized Committee Chairmen had held its meeting last Monday under the chairmanship of Mr. [illegible] Al-Sadat to lay down the foundations on which the reply was to be based.

The drafting committee was formed of the chairmen of the committees and the statement is to be approved by the party chairman and is to be sent to People's Assembly before the 12th of the current month of January.

Major General Al-Sadat has said that the reports [etc.] deal with the general [illegible] and beyond of the language of figures. Mr. Ibn Salah Atta'i added that in its statement, the government has used the help of many of the Liberal Party's principles and statements.

Where is government's mistake?

Dr. Mamdouh Salim, the party chairman in Cairo, said that the government has been timid in its dealings with the opposition parties and is afraid of strengthening them [illegible]. The government forgets that strengthening the opposition parties strengthens the regime, entrenches security and restores the masses' confidence in the freedom of expression and in the democratic system.

He wondered about the real method that the parties should follow to gain the support of the masses. He also said that the ruling party has tens of offices and that when the women's organization was dissolved, all its offices ended up in the hand of the ruling party. Not only this, the party has also usurped some of our offices which belong to us by law and was not given as a substitute for them. We must have offices in all the governorates.

Consultative and Democracy

Ibrahim Sa'ad has dealt with the difference between the consultative system as laid out in a democracy, saying that Islam establishes the best system because the political people may have power when the decision is discussed. This is followed by the phase of implementation which requires an opinion. The situation is then made stable.

Mustafa Murad, the party chairman, then commented on the new important domestic and foreign political events.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS BELIEVE THEY ARE TREATED UNJUSTLY

AL-AHRAM in Arabic [illegible]

[Article by Nabil Badawi: "Ministry of Agriculture Says Peasants Alienated for Agricultural Cooperatives Have Been Returned; Officials of Cooperative Associations Stopped"]

[text] Every effort is being made to serve the members of all sectors and ways to ensure the rights and benefits guaranteed them by the law.

In his visit, the state has issued laws and regulations to correct the conditions of the civil servants. The civil service law exists and provides for the many issues by improving the low income so that this setting they may be able to keep pace with the high prices.

After the issuance of law No. 43 of 1974, law No. 115 of 1975 was issued giving agricultural a positive service [illegible] allowance and production incentives and benefits for which nearly 50 million pounds are allocated annually as part of the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture has an important task to carry out and has given the peasants [illegible] to [illegible] the union in other [illegible] incentives and benefits so to cope with their value according to their work.

In a meeting with [illegible], Engineer Hosny [illegible] Abou Wafia [illegible] Agricultural Reclamation Office has said that the Agriculture Directorate has not disbursed the allowance allocated for the agricultural engineers regularly [illegible] allowance has not been included in the budget and are now [illegible] within the framework of the budget. At times, the allowance did not suit the works. Then said, the matter is not here on the basis of a [illegible] engineers are given the incentive whereas others are not. Meanwhile, all the engineers are urged [illegible] Ministry for [illegible] work. The allowance is supposed to [illegible] during real control operations and the transportation allowance. The officials are also concerned with supplying enterprises to the [illegible] agents and supervisors while the people with the real work, such as the engineers working in villages, the agricultural supervisors and the village workers who are really responsible for the [illegible] production in the field receive [illegible] and denied their entitlements.

[redacted] on Distribution of Wheat

The [redacted] applies to the distribution of the Silo [redacted] where it has become evident that the rule of distribution of the older wheat [redacted] not been observed. There are examples here also.

Al-Marzubiyat storehouse received 5,000 sacks of wheat from the Silo keeper and distributed them immediately even though it had a [redacted] quantities of wheat in storage. The case happened with 100 sacks delivered by the Silo Director.

In the 25th of last September, 100 sacks of super flour intended with an average of 80 cents per kilogram were delivered to Al-Bassel storehouse and despite the excess of quantities, without anybody realizing the fact.

What is more surprising is that the Silo keeper applies the principle of equality in the distribution of wheat and [redacted] the Ministry of supply's decree requiring that 5% percent of the share of citizens be distributed from treated flour and 5% percent from health flour so as to protect the public health of the citizens. What does the principle of [redacted] say?

The [redacted] citizens got their share without the 5% percent of treated flour.

Ahmed al-Rifa'i 'Abd-al'Aziz received 10 sacks of bread flour on the 10th of last September.

Ameer [redacted] 'Abdallah al-Shaykh received 200 sacks of bread flour on the 18th of last September.

Ahmed 'Abd-al-[redacted] received 50 sacks of flour in total by mistake on the 15th of last September.

Hasan Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz received on the 25th of last September 50 sacks of flour in total by mistake.

As for the non-relatives, they receive their share in treated flour. These non-relatives in al-Marzubiyat storehouse include:

Fatima Nasir who received 2 sacks of treated flour on the 21st of last September.

'Ali Muhammad 'Ali who received 10 sacks of treated flour.

Khalid 'Abd-al-'Aziz who received 5 sacks of treated flour.

[redacted] Ameer Barrud who received 50 sacks of treated flour.

It seems, the difference between the relatives and others is an understanding that made it possible to get the best kinds.

[redacted]

EGYPT

DR HILMI MURAD URGES PRIME MINISTER TO PROSECUTE HIM

[Text] Al-AHRAM has received the following statement from Dr Hilmi Murad in reply to the questions raised by Dr Mustafa Khalil, the prime minister, in the People's Assembly on the position of Khalil Mahmud-Abdin and Dr Hilmi Murad.

Dr Hilmi Murad's statement has not answered the prime minister's question on the case that most of them [presumably Murad and Mahmud-Abdin] collect from the foreign papers for which they write. The editor have published Khalil Mahmud-Abdin's reply and Al-Ahram is publishing today Dr Hilmi Murad's reply.

The political decision issued by the People's Assembly on the basis of the report of the committee formed by the Assembly at the request of Dr Mustafa Khalil and within the framework of the four points that [Dr Khalil] defined cannot be considered [illegible] truth regarding the telephone agreement, in addition to the observations that we have on the content of the report.

[Words spoken in the People's Assembly] Dr Mustafa Khalil announced that he will notify the public prosecution after issuance of the Assembly's decision on the issue. This is something that we have urged Dr Khalil to do directly, considering that the judiciary is the neutral authority concerned.

Though we, on our part, have asked the public prosecutor to hear my statements and to take the necessary legal measures in accordance with article [illegible] of the deposition at the prosecutor's office on appeal, I still demand that Dr Mustafa Khalil notify in his turn the prosecution organs to [illegible] of what he has proved.

As for the questions raised by Dr Mustafa Khalil in his statement to the People's Assembly, I am prepared to answer them before the public prosecution or before the judiciary to guarantee that my reply is announced to the public in full and without any omission.

We implore God to support right and to grant the righteous.

[illegible] Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad

[illegible]

EDITORIAL TELLS RULING PARTY WHAT AREA [illegible]

[Cairo Al-GUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Jan 84 p 1]

[Editorial by Ahmad Zaydan: "Democracy for Majority and Opposition"]

[Text] I had imagined that my love for Egypt was a one-sided love. Yet, I have continued to love it. I had imagined that with the past week's publication of Al-GUMHURIYAH was stopped and that I realized how Egypt reciprocates equally the love of those who love it.

We decided to suspend publication of the newspaper for one week to protest one of the limitations of the National Party's leadership and so that this party may not turn into a single and totalitarian (communist) party. When we wanted to republish the newspaper, it became impossible for us to have it printed in any of the public or private sector's printing presses except [at] Al-Ahram establishment whose executive board chairman welcomed us and except for al-Shurug house whose owner welcomed us in case we could not find a press establishment to print our paper.

In those weeks I have realized how dearly Egypt loves those who love it dearly. Wishes, letters, telephone calls, visitors, embraces, kisses and whispered words of wishes, as well as financial contributions from all over Egypt.

I am so great to love Egypt and to feel its love for you and for all the freedom that you cherish [illegible]. Egypt supports all those who support it, it supports freedom, democracy, free expression, the freedom of opinion, the honorable and sincere word and the free and honest press reflecting the people's opinion and belonging to Egypt in fact and opinion.

Egypt loves the simple ones. Simplicity says that the principles do not change with the change of your place, whether you are inside or outside the government. Democracy for the existing party in any country, for example, is the case of the democracy for the opposition party.

Equality, equal opportunities, the right to expression, freedom and all the other principles are the same. A man cannot turn into a teacher of other

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[illegible] RECEIVE THE LABOR PARTY PRINTING, PUBLISHING HOUSE

[illegible] Al-[illegible]'S in Arabic 6 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[Article]: "People Contribute Toward Establishing Printing House for Labor Party"

[Text] It has been decided to call for the establishment of a printing and publishing house for publication of Al-[illegible]'S and of the Socialist Labor Party's papers and magazines through participation by the party members and the citizens.

The Socialist Labor Party secretariat in the governorate discussed this issue in their first meeting with Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the party chairman, and with Ra'fat al-[illegible], the secretary general.

The party chairman and the secretary general reviewed the conditions through which Al-[illegible]'S went in the past 3 weeks when it was impossible to have the newspaper printed in the public or private sector printing presses in the case of the party decision to suspend its publication for one week only.

The party secretariat in the governorate recommended that the party call for the establishment of a printing and publishing house to publish Al-[illegible]'S and the party's papers and magazines in the future so that the party can liberate free speech and can carry out its responsibilities in building democracy, freedom, the freedom of the press and the freedom of expression.

Subscriptions in support of the newspaper has been opened with cash donations. It has also been decided to open the door of subscription through participation (in shares) for establishing a publishing and printing company. The party will announce the founding of this company, the value of its capital, and the value of the shares after completing its study by the [illegible].

A sum of [illegible] pounds has been collected in donations [illegible] of the newspaper. One sum of [illegible] millimes.

A total of [illegible] pounds from the members of the Socialist Labor Party Secretariat committee. 100 pounds from Ahmad Shukri, the party secretary-general. 100 pounds from Ra'fat al-Mahjub, the party secretary in Port Said

The committee believes that for the proper planning of industrial expansion, the Alexandria Water Authority should establish plants to supply water to these expansions after securing the financial allocations necessary for these plants from the investments of the industrial factories themselves.

The failure to implement the provision in law No 49 of 1977 on the leasing and sale of [residential] places and to organize the relationship between the lessor and the lessee so that the property owners may supply water to the residents of the higher floors of their property, considering that the Alexandria Water Authority is committed to supplying water by natural pressure to floors with a height of no more than 12 meters above sea level. Residential floors with a higher elevation must be supplied with water from reservoirs on the roofs of the buildings to which water is raised by pumps.

Interruption of Water Supply is Phenomenon Repeated Daily

Are we truly serious in solving the masses' real problems? The people are fed up, for example, with the phenomenon of the interruption in the water supply. They have complained and screamed but the problem is still repeated every day and in the various areas.

The people are asking: When and how will salvation come?

Before answering, the dimensions of the problem must be observed, its elements must be defined, its various aspects must be clarified and the culprit must be raised to disclose the facts without any courtesies.

The Housing, Public Utilities and Development Committee of the People's Assembly has disclosed that the drop in the production of potable water throughout the Greater Cairo has amounted to 25 percent whereas the government estimates this drop at 10 percent only. The committee has also disclosed that operations in al-Gayzah Plant have been stopped because of the unsuitability of the plant's water for drinking.

The report of the committee, chaired by Engineer Mahdi Hamid Istayru who is a member of the Socialist Labor Party's Executive Committee, has stated that most of the water pipeline networks are more than 40 years old and that the diameters of the pipelines are not compatible with the current population numbers they are serving. This is in addition to the fact that sediments in the pipes, especially the subsidiary pipes, further reduce their diameters.

The committee's report stresses that ruptures in the pipelines are not due to the old age of the pipes but rather to the corrosion caused by several factors, including old age and failure to provide the necessary maintenance. Moreover, the addition of 4 grams of chlorine to every cubic meter of water helps to corrode the pipes.

The report further says that the officials have stated that lack of maintenance workers has had a big impact on the frequent ruptures and on the inability to repair these ruptures quickly, considering that the number of notification of ruptures amounts to two notifications per minute at the average.

The committee has noticed that the Greater Cairo is still suffering from a shortage of drinking water as a result of the inability of the Greater Cairo Water Utility to keep up with the construction expansion and with the population density that is rising year after year, despite the considerable leap in water production amounting to nearly 300 percent in the past 20 years. This is why the authority is currently implementing a number of urgent and long-term projects, hoping that the finances necessary will be allocated in the 1980-84 five-year plan. The value of these finances has been estimated at 250 million pounds.

The committee believes, as its report states, that it is necessary to start surveys to drill underground water in the areas east of the Nile River, even if the matter requires employing the help of the petroleum company's drilling rigs that are capable of reaching depths of 1,000 meters, so as to supply the central areas of the Greater Cairo with enough water until expansions are made in the main water plants.

The committee urges the need to lay down underground water pipes during the winter so as to supply sufficient quantities of water to the popular quarters and suburbs, especially the quarters of Helwan, al-Maadiyah, al-Ubur, al-Marj, al-Zaytun, Zaynah, Abbasiyah and al-Wily. The committee also urges the need to replace and renew the corroded pipelines, considering that a large percentage of the water lost is the result of leakage from the pipeline networks. The committee further urges the need to link the pipeline networks with each other through the use of new pipes with the right diameters, so re-use turbid water for the irrigation of gardens instead of using clear water for this purpose, to streamline consumption and to exercise stronger supervision over the public installations, in addition to improving industrial supervision over the manufacturing of faucets, as well as other sanitary fittings, such as toilet flushers. The committee's report says that is it totally unacceptable that 40 percent of the water produced by lost, that it is necessary to set up a maintenance company that is free of the government regulations, that the wages and salaries given to the employees of this company be comparable with those given by the private sector at present and that the number of vocational training centers be increased to raise the number of those working in the plumbing professions.

The committee has further recommended the need to adopt urgent measures to supply water to the homes of some property owners in Cairo who have already paid the fees for the connections necessary. These connections have not yet been made even though more than 2 years have passed since the fees for some of them were paid. The committee has also recommended the need to install water meters in all residences, especially in the popular residences.

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SELECTIVE LIST OF JPRS SERIAL REPORTS

NEAR EAST AND AFRICA SERIAL REPORTS

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

WORLDWIDE SERIAL REPORTS

WORLDWIDE REPORT: Environmental Quality
WORLDWIDE REPORT: Epidemiology
WORLDWIDE REPORT: Law of the Sea
WORLDWIDE REPORT: Nuclear Development and Proliferation
WORLDWIDE REPORT: Telecommunications Policy, Research and Development

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